



GABON

Ukraine emerged out of the wreckage of the Soviet Union in December 1919 though the people of Ukraine had voted to stay in the Soviet Union in October 1919 but in December they voted to be independent. Ukraine simply means Borderlands which justifies the diversity of people living in this country with differences in culture, origin , religion etc. (Adjuwon Soyinka) . The Russia-Ukraine crisis which started on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 was uncalled for and urgent interventions are required to end this war.

Gabon voted in favor of the United Nations Security Council resolutions calling on Russia to halt its invasion and withdraw its forces from Ukraine. The Gabon government respects the sovereignty of Ukraine and any invasion from another country is UN called for however any action by the Ukraine government which possess a threat to any of its neighbors should be solved by dialogue between the two parties.

The death toll increases every day in this conflict and casualties are on both sides fighting. The decision by the Ukraine State Border Guard Service to block male citizens between 18 and 60 years from leaving the country according to CNN, is insane and violates the human rights of its citizens because human beings should not be used as a shield of war. This should be condemned by the United Nations human rights committee. The decision of NATO member states to supply weapons to Ukraine is only aimed at prolonging the war and minting billions of dollars in arms deals but not saving the people of Ukraine. Any peace loving person would do anything possible to stop the fighting but not catalyzing the conflict hence losing lives. The states supplying weapons to Ukraine are worse than Russia in this conflict because fighting does not bridge togetherness but dialogue does and this is evident in Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, etc.

The security of Russia should be respected by its neighbors and the world at large. This was witnessed during the cold war in October 1962 when Russia planted missile in Cuba and since they threatened the security of the United States a decision was taken by the United States to invade Cuba and destroy all the Russian missiles and also to overthrow the Cuban government. This issue was resolved through dialogue and Russia agreed to withdraw all its missiles from Cuba. We also state that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is in the same nature and same tactics should be deployed.

The NATO member countries should stop sending weapons to Ukraine as this has caused more death than stopping the fight, only medicines and food aid should be allowed.

The issues raised by Russia should be addressed through dialogue not fighting

The people in the Donbas region should be allowed to choose through a referendum on whether to remain under Ukraine or become independent.