

Forum: Security Council

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TOPIC 1: THE ISSUE OF POST-CONFLICT UKRAINE.

Introduction

Even as militaristic violence from Russia continues to plague Ukraine, laying down the groundwork for post-war planning and relief is imperative to combatting the plethora of security and humanitarian issues concerning innocent lives. This includes planning the prevention of future aggression attempts, repairing broken down infrastructure and homes to welcome displaced citizens, economic relief as well as providing support for affected individuals whenever possible. Moreover, further complexities of the conflict can be addressed such as the release of imprisoned anti-war protesters in Russia and the cessation of hate campaigns and crimes targeted at innocent Russian expats internationally.

Key Terms

Humanitarian Corridor:

Specific routes agreed upon by all relevant parties to allow a safe passage of goods/people from one point to another in an active area of fighting.

Anti-protest Laws:

A set of laws enacted by president Viktor Yanukovich designed to limit freedom of speech; the enactment of these laws subsequently led to a new level of violence in the Euromaidan protests.

G20 Countries:

An intergovernmental group of 19 nations and the European Union focused on addressing global economy-related challenges such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development.

Euro Zone:

A group of 19 European Union member states which have fully implemented the Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union and adopted the euro as their principal currency.

EIU:

An organisation that provides entrepreneurs, financiers, and government officials with forecasting and advising services. The EIU provides comprehensive assessments and projections for 205 nations.

Financial Aids:

Financial aid is money, equipment, or services provided to people, countries or organisations that require them, but are unable to provide them for themselves.

NATO:

NATO or the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is an intergovernmental defensive alliance formed by 30 member states, 28 of which are located in North America. NATO's primary goal is to protect the Allies' freedom and security through political and military means.

Sanctions:

A penalty for disobeying a rule of a law imposed.

Background Information

Ukraine is a European country that lies in between Europe to the West and Russia to the East. This has resulted in major differences in how Ukrainians identify themselves. While Ukrainians in Western parts of the countries have openly shared their opinions about becoming closer allies to the European Union and NATO, Russian-speaking Ukrainians living in the East regard Russia as their closest ally. The constant drift of political ideas, the importance of Ukraine to Russia, Ukraine's economy, its potential significance to the European Union, and its complicated history have all been factors that have contributed to conflicts in the region.

The main catalyst for the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war occurred on February 24th 2022, when the conflict escalated with Russian forces launching missiles near Kyiv, later

followed by attacks across central and eastern Ukraine. One main target at this time was the main international airport at Boryspil, snowballing the beginning of the currently ongoing refugee crisis in Ukraine, alongside dangerous obstacles for citizens fleeing to safety due to indiscriminate, often purposeful attacks. Since then, the Russian Federation and military troops have inflicted more terrors including war crimes and massive human rights violations like the execution, kidnapping, imprisonment, sexual and gender-based assault of Ukrainian citizens including children.

The most notable attempt to resolve this issue dates back to 1997, when Ukraine and Russia had signed a treaty called the “Big Treaty” stating that Russia and Ukraine would avoid military conflict with each other. This marked and maintained a political friendship among these two nations. In 2014 however, Russia violated this treaty by launching a military attack on Ukraine 3 times (2014, 2018, 2022), causing Ukraine not to renew the treaty in September 2018. Due to the withdrawal of the renewal, the treaty expired on 31 March 2019. 3 years after the expiration of the treaty, Russia launched an invasion on Ukraine, operating from land, sea and air.

The Budapest Memorandum, another treaty signed by 6 member nations, also provided security assurance to Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan from Russia, United States and United Kingdom from any military or nuclear attacks on the respective 3 countries. However, after the invasion of Russia in 2022, President Zelensky stated, “Ukraine has attempted three times since 2014 to hold consultations with the Budapest Memorandum's guarantor states. Three attempts were made without success. Ukraine will do it for the fourth time today. ... If they do not occur again, or if the results do not provide security for our country, Ukraine will have every reason to believe that the Budapest Memorandum is ineffective and that all of the 1994 package decisions are in jeopardy.”[\[1\]](#)

Attempts to pass laws and constitutions to resolve this conflict have also been made. Countries such as the United States imposed bans on Russia as part of these sanctions. According to US President Joe Biden, the US has prohibited the export of sensitive goods from the country, including technologies such as aviation, military and defence.

Key Issues

Violation of human rights and war crimes

UN investigators have concluded that Russia has committed multiple war crimes in Ukraine, pertaining to numerous human rights violations. The team found that sexual and gender-based violence victims ranged from ages 4 to 82 and in some cases, family members were forced to watch the crimes; Russian troops violently executed, tortured and illegally confined many Ukrainian citizens, including children, to be subjected to inhumane treatment. In some cases, those detained and brought back to Russia were later reported 'missing'.

The Russian military also used indiscriminate explosive attacks including cluster munitions, multi-launch rocket systems, and airstrikes in high population density areas, killing people as well as destroying their homes. The extent of these crimes is expansive and explicit but can be concluded to be insidious violations of human rights.

Economic unrest and retaliations

As geopolitical tensions rise between Russia and Western countries, increasing sanctions imposed on Russia have triggered retaliations leading to a ripple effect on the global economy. Being the largest exporter of gas and having many European countries reliant on this source, the most dramatic consequence of the conflict on the economy is oil and gas prices which have exponentially increased globally due to an alarming shortage, although it can be noted that some countries face more severe fivefold to tenfold price increases compared to others. However, other goods have also been affected by decreasing global supply of Russian exports like metals, including aluminium, titanium, palladium and nickel being at all time high prices, affecting industrial markets, especially the automotive industry. Combined, Russia and Ukraine also hold more than 25% of global wheat exports, creating wheat shortages in Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh, Nigeria and other countries dependent on these imports.

Furthermore, financial sanctions placed upon Russia will have major implications on supply chains and trade. Due to prolonged disruption in land-based trade routes between Asia and Europe, nations reliant on trade routes between Ukrainian, Russian, Bulgarian and

Romanian ports will suffer complications relating to supply distribution. A reduction in oil, barley, maize, rapeseed and rapeseed oil, sunflower seed exports between Russia and Ukraine have caused the prices of fuel, food, energy and commodities to increase around the world, increasing global inflation by a projected 6% and inflicting financial burden on millions of vulnerable people.

Finally, though Russia and Ukraine will face the sharpest recessions due to the conflict, global economic growth will also be stunted. In the second half of 2022, global growth is estimated to remain subdued before decelerating further in 2023 to only 2.2%. Compared to OECD projections from December 2021, before Russia's attacks in Ukraine, it is now anticipated that the world GDP will be at least USD 2.8 trillion lower in 2023. As a result of the reversal of the global economic cycle and the increasing impact of monetary policies, it is anticipated that inflation will peak in the current quarter in the majority of the world's largest economies and then decline in the fourth quarter and throughout 2023 in the majority of G20 nations. Growth predictions made by the EIU for Europe alone in 2022 have decreased from 3.9% to about 2%; with growth in the Euro Zone to be 3.7% this year, down from its earlier estimate of 4%.

Refugee and displacement crisis

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has left innocent civilians from both sides of the war with numerous challenges relating to their living situations. Due to increased civilian deaths, unsafe living conditions and the destruction of infrastructure, innocent people have been compelled to flee their homes in search of safety, protection, and aid as they cannot sustain their lifestyle in this environment. Currently, the UNHCR estimates that there are approximately 13 million Ukrainians and Russians stranded in this situation. This number is expected to drastically increase if the conflict escalates.

Russians and Ukrainians alike have been forced to seek asylum in countries across Europe, with an estimated 8 million people being forced to leave their homes. These families, and in particular their children, must socially adapt in regards to the norms and culture of the host nation; there is the very real possibility that they may be unable to return home and will hence become permanent residents.

Russian law enforcement and xenophobia

Although conflict between the Russian and Ukrainian governments continues to rise, many Russian civilians are against the war and are still paying the price. Thousands of protestors have been arrested throughout Russia, facing violence and mistreatment from authorities. Up to 15 years in prison can be sentenced for these protestors, alongside those who refuse the draft and new reporters that do not conform to Russia's media censorship agenda.

However, further away from censorship, police brutality and the threat of criminalisation in their home country, innocent Russian people around the world are facing xenophobia due to government actions they have no control over. Business owners, everyday workers, school children and other Russian expats find themselves the target of hate campaigns and discrimination amid distressed feelings due to the war, which many do not support.

Timeline

December 5th, 1994: The Budapest Memorandum, a treaty, signed between 6 nation countries (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia, United States, United Kingdom), provided security assurances within the signatories. The Memoranda prohibited Russia, United States and United Kingdom to use military forces or nuclear forces on Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

May 31st, 1997: The Big Treaty or the Friendship Treaty between Ukraine and Russia is signed, guaranteeing territorial integrity between the two countries.

February 24th, 2022: Putin announces a decision to launch a "special military operation" in Eastern Ukraine, seeking for the "demilitarisation" and "densification" of Ukraine. Ukraine's stock exchange also announces a suspension to trading due to emergency events.

February 24th, 2022: The World Bank launches an emergency finance package, offering \$925 million dollars in the efforts to aid Ukraine, with the money being used to directly pay for the wages of hospital workers, aid the elderly and fund social programs helping

vulnerable citizens. This comes in part to a 3 billion dollar rapid support plan announced on the same day by the Bank Group.

February 25th, 2022: Kyiv is rocked by two explosions from ballistic cruise missiles. Independent military analysts state that Russian forces are now heavily engaged with the Ukrainian military within the northern section.

March 4th, 2022: Various global financial markets begin failing as a result of the rise in prices for oil, natural gas, metals and food commodities; Brent oil prices are said to have reached 100\$ per barrel for the first time since 2014, with European gas prices reaching an all time high (192 Euros).

March 5th, 2022: Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a new law that calls for sentences of up to 15 years in prison for people who distribute "false news" about the Russian military.

March 6th, 2022: Humanitarian corridors were opened by Russia in order to allow innocent Ukrainian citizens to leave several Ukrainian cities impacted by the conflict.

March 24th, 2022: the UN General Assembly requests access for civilian protection and humanitarian aid in Ukraine, while also criticising Russia for initiating a "dire" humanitarian situation.

March 30th, 2022: the United Nations begin their own investigation into the possible international law violations committed by Russia during the conflict in Ukraine.

April 7th, 2022: The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution to have Russia suspended from the Human Rights Council.

April 10th, 2022: Reports state that economic growth within Ukraine for 2022 will likely experience a decrease of 45% in annual performance due to the Russian-Ukrainian war.

June 3rd, 2022: Reports state that in 2022, European GDP growth will face a 1 percent decrease with inflation subsequently rising by 1.5 percent. Additionally, a total cutoff of Russian gas supplies is said to decrease the EU's GDP growth closer to the negatives.

June 28th, 2022: UN political chief Rosemary DiCarlo informs the Security Council that the conflict in Ukraine shows no signs of slowing down, pointing out that “countless Ukrainian civilians” have been killed with cities and towns being levelled.

August 3rd, 2022: A recent IOM survey suggests that sixty percent of internally displaced people (6.8 million) in Ukraine who were employed before displacement have lost their job.

September 3rd, 2022: Reports state that since the war began, the United Nations, alongside various other organisations, have been able to provide more than 8.1 million people with humanitarian assistance and protection; it is said that 6.7 million people have received food aid and nearly 1.7 million have received cash assistance.

September 7th, 2022: UN reports show that since the war began, 5,718 people have been killed, including 372 children, with over seven million Ukrainian refugees being recorded across Europe.

September 14, 2022: Across Ukraine, it has been reported that over 580 humanitarian partners have provided life-critical aid and protection services to 13.3 million people.

September 21th, 2022: Vladimir Putin approves a policy for partial mobilisation in Russia, forcing a mandatory draft upon many innocent Russians.

September 22th, 2022: Countless Russian protesters against President Vladimir Putin's partial mobilisation on Ukraine are handed draft papers while in custody of the Russian Military.

October 4th, 2022: Results show an estimated 400,000 Russians have fled to nearby countries and the European Union in order to avoid the draft.

Possible Challenges & Solutions

After the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war, Ukraine's economy has declined by 45% and has already plunged into a deep recession with output projected to contract by 11.2% in 2022. Swiftly providing financial support is necessary to revitalise Ukraine's economy and support citizens who are coping with extreme situations. Financial aid can be utilised in stimulating the economy through subsidising new businesses, stimulus checks, giving out loans and other investments like the reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure, civilian buildings and homes alongside. The magnitude of rebuilding Ukrainian infrastructure is beyond the capacity of Ukraine alone. The World Bank and European Commission recently estimated reconstruction in Ukraine will cost at least US\$349 billion (\$534 billion) to remediate damage already done in this war. This will require direct aid from multiple nations as well as EU and World Bank assistance.

Whether this involves NATO membership or not, Ukraine will require security assurances. Quiet discussions about this matter are likely already occurring and will need to be part of any settlement for the war. This can include more military funding and support from other nations as Russia's massive militaristic investments will overwhelm Ukrainian defences alone. However, it is important to keep in mind that currently, some nations across Europe and Northern America are reluctant to provide large amounts of support and/or intervention due to Russia's nuclear capabilities.

Another problem to address is that Russia and Ukraine collectively produce 30% of the world's volume of wheat, which tends to be inexpensive, holding substantial market share in low-income and food-deficit countries. Food aid in these countries will alleviate burdens on these governments with rising inflation and a hungry population.

Recommendations for Research

The chair strongly recommends research about the aftermath of the Russian-Ukraine war and the impact it has had on the economic, social, and domestic demographic part of Ukraine. Furthermore, the chair recommends looking into the exports and imports of products from Ukraine before and after the war to see the change in their economic status from shipping.

The chair suggests research directed towards socio-economic impact on external countries that rely on Ukraine as sources of import. By overlooking the impact on external countries, not specifically Ukraine, can show the impact of the Russia - Ukraine war towards external countries in terms of financial, social and political aspects.

Additionally, the chair strongly recommends the delegates focus their research on political, economical and social changes made in laws, constitutions, exports, etc. to focus on the key issue of post-conflict Ukraine and how government officials have taken action to protect the citizens of Ukraine. Referring to past UN resolutions, comments and studies from the UN can help guide solutions.

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