

## South Africa Gross Uncalculated Diplomatic Blunder, Contradictory Responses (SAGUDBCR) Versus Mass Dependency Trapping Africans in the Eastern European Showdown (MDTAEES) in the Ukrainian Territory during the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Dr. Njuafac Kenedy Fonju (Ph.D, FSASS)<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Senior Lecturer, History of International Relations Cameroon, University of Dschang / Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences Department of History-Archeology-Cameroon, Secretary and Team Leader of Diaspora Studies of the Research Unit of African Studies Andthe Diaspora (Ruasd)

\*Corresponding author: Dr. Njuafac Kenedy Fonju | Received: 30.06.2022 | Accepted: 26.07.2022 | Published: 03.08.2022 |

**Abstract:** The present article deals with the position of the Republic of South Africa with inconsistent blundering following her outing concerning the 2022 Russo-Ukrainian showdown. That such contradictory support to an aggressive State of Eastern European country making purported strategies to raise war and traumatize the Ukrainian to go down on their needs in a full scale war is just an unjust way of struggling to once more rise to a World unchallengeable position vis-à-vis with the United States Hyper Power Parity as unique policeman of the World since 1991 collapsed of the Cold War and disintegration of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR).. But that cannot work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century when recalling the past history of the disintegration of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic in 1991 with the 15 Satellites States gaining their independence. Ukraine was never having two other independent Republics within its single national territory and the composition of USSR was never 17 satellite states that an over ambitious aggressive statesman is trying to give the two secessionist regions total support to purported independence conducted where nobody can justify. The South African authorities should clearly remove their diplomatic lenses to see the suffering facing by African diasporas in the country under aggressive attack from Russia are going through and think of their former Apartheid system the country undergone in the hands of the British minorities until 1990. Infact, Africans high imported countries are now trapped with unbearable high prices of consumer goods and services due to long adopted policy of dependency and practicability not to produce to capacities to feed their local populations before the outbreak of the unjustified war consonant to the violation of international law. Africans make up more than 20 percent of Ukraine's international students, studying in many different towns and cities throughout the country The scrutiny of diverse sources paved the way to adopt a historical analytical approach with the used statistical evidence to illustrate how SAGUDBCR and MDTAEES mechanisms of future radical chaos which may likely affect many countries in Africa if no preventive measures are taking to empower the local producers for diverse sustainability. This paper is very important to the new generation of African historians in terms of the North South cooperation especially in the international economic relations and patterns of political economy.

**Keywords:** Diplomatic, Blunder, Mass Dependency, Showdown, Ukrainian, Demand, Supply.

### INTRODUCTION

Ukraine has long appealed to foreign students, which can be traced back to the Soviet era, when there was a lot of investment in Higher Education and a deliberate attempt to attract students from newly independent African countries. Now, Ukrainian Universities are seen as a gateway to the European job market, offering affordable course prices, straightforward visa terms and the possibility of permanent residency. "Ukrainian degrees are widely recognized and offer a high standard of education," said

Patrick Esugunum, who works for an organization that assists West African students wanting to study in Ukraine." A lot of medical students, in particular, want to go there as they have a good standard for medical facilities," he added. Desmond Chinaza Muokwudo, a Nigerian student who had been based in the city of Dnipro, said he was attracted by the relaxed admission requirements and the cheap cost of living compared to other European cities. He enrolled at the University of Customs and Finance less than three months ago. Many courses are offered in English, but the 30-year-old was

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**Citation:** Njuafac Kenedy Fonju (2022). South Africa Gross Uncalculated Diplomatic Blunder, Contradictory Responses (SAGUDBCR) Versus Mass Dependency Trapping Africans in the Eastern European Showdown (MDTAEES) in the Ukrainian Territory during the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. *Cross Current Int Peer Reviewed J Human Soc Sci*, 8(6), 54-84.

undertaking a preliminary. Ukrainian language course, before moving on to study international relations. "I was a welder back in Nigeria and I needed an education to accomplish things," he told the BBC from a hostel in Poland after fleeing the conflict (Soraya Ali, 2022). Earlier in March 2022 "strong African response" to Russian aggression and plans to help mitigate the economic effects of the Ukraine conflict on the continent was the main concerns of the United States of America. (US calls , <https://www.aljazeera.com › news> March 31, 2022)

To our findings indicates that the Russian administration is in needs of African support in case of total escalation into another global war of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Contradictorily, Russian has long bounds back to many African countries in strong international cooperation in the military domains in the Post-Cold War era. In fact, the Russo– Ukraine War of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the African States' responses to Russian is in brief is a part of the Ukraine Crisis, Cause and Course of the Conflict (ORF <https://www.orfonline.org › african-...>) which needs to be well noted in the years ahead due to its mass consequences in terms of importation and exportation of goods and services as most countries raised themselves to the status of consumer and not producers of what Ukraine could produce annually. The worst challenges is the blocking of the Ukraine ports by the Russian forces which is likely a dangerous trapped to Africans dependent countries. The ambiance behind the aggressor is a hiding agenda to force those Africans countries to her camp as aggressive supporters thereby by miscalculating the course of national interest in the period of an uncertain endless war since February 2022. Ukraine was home to over 76,000 foreign students, according to government data from 2020. Nearly a quarter of the students were from Africa, African students were among those looking to escape from Ukraine during the first days of Russia's invasion in February 2022. Hundreds have managed to return to their countries according to the VOA Africa on February 26, 2022. In fact students from three African countries made up nearly 20percent of all foreign students in Ukraine as of 2020, according to Ukraine's Ministry of Education. . Many Diasporas in Ukraine has become a popular choice for African students, who now account for nearly a quarter of the more than 76,000 foreign students in Ukraine, according to the BBC, which cited government data for its report on March 7, 2022 (VOA Africa on February 26, 2022). In fact the war could likely touch the tentacles of the existing African countries already in food insecurity and crisis especially the highly consumer of goods and services from Ukraine during the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is very contradictory to see an African country which long suffered in the hands of the British minorities in the name of Apartheid with all the elements of racial discrimination and torturing of Black Africans in their own country supporting an Eastern

European country which lost its preeminence as a Super Power of the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century and presently tried to cross once more to regain World hegemonic position vis-à-vis the United States who used the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to strengthen its unique position in the World till present.

Until 1991, Russia and Ukraine were part of the Soviet Union, a socialist state that had spanned Eurasia since 1922. The two countries and 13 others emerged from the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 (Martin Kimani, Kenya's permanent representative to the United Nations). The former satellite state of the collapsed Soviet Union known as Ukraine is having intensive bilateral relations with about 32 African countries. International economic relations are very prominent in terms of importation and exportation of variety of goods with the following African countries in the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Tanzania, Angola, Swaziland, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Benin, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia, Rwanda, Lesotho, South Sudan, Djibouti, Cameroon, Togo, Angola, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Senegal, Algeria, Morocco, Cote D'Ivoire, Malawi, Botswana, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Kenya, Ghana, Tunisia, Egypt, South Africa, Ghana, Malawi, Botswana and Mozambique. Are all African countries which frequently imported Ukraine wheat and cereal products and could be seriously affected from the ongoing war with Russia and frontiers are blocked (KITE Trade Model statistics). The war in Ukraine could significantly worsen the supply of cereals used in food production in African countries, making food more expensive, African countries may be hit hard by any continuing halt to Ukraine's grain exports caused by the war, a report from Germany's Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IFW) said on Friday, 11 March 2022. The war in Ukraine could significantly worsen the supply of cereals used in food production in African countries, making food more expensive if Ukraine ceases to be a grain supplier," the institute said. "The country supplies large quantities of grain to North African states in particular, which other sources of supply could not replace even in the long run." Grain importers globally have been hit by surging prices, with wheat around 14-year highs following the sudden stop of exports from Ukraine and a sharp reduction from Russia. The conflict has closed-grain export ports. Russia and Ukraine contribute nearly 30% of global wheat exports along with large volumes of animal feed grains and edible oils, with shipments massively cut by the fighting. "Due to the war, Ukraine is likely to be initially cut off from the global economy, trade routes have been cut, infrastructure destroyed and all remaining production factors are likely to be directed towards a war economy," said the institute. It added: "Losing Ukraine as a supplier will noticeably worsen the supply situation across the continent." Among the countries hardest hit could be Tunisia, where the

country's total wheat imports would decrease by over 15%. Egypt would import over 17% less while South Africa would import 7% less. Grain imports would also be noticeably disrupted in countries including Cameroon, Algeria, Libya, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Morocco and Mozambique. Germany will host a meeting of agriculture ministers of the G7 nations on Friday to discuss the consequences of the Ukraine conflict for global food security (Michael H, 2022).

The main Ukraine exports are raw materials (iron, steel, mining products, agricultural products), chemical products and machinery. This is a considerably increase of 48,5% since 2016. In 2021, Ukraine exported more than \$27 billion in agricultural products to the world. Ukraine's top export markets were the 27 nations that now comprise the European Union (EU-27) at \$7.6 billion, China at \$4.2 billion, India at \$2 billion, Egypt at \$1.5 billion and Turkey also at \$1.5 billion. Together Russia and Ukraine produce more than a quarter of global wheat exports, and Africa is heavily dependent on both countries. Wheat imports make up 90 percent of Africa's \$4bn trade with Russia and almost half of the continent's \$4.5bn trade with Ukraine, according TO AFDB. According to Mahlkow, "Ukraine's central importance to Africa's food supply is evident from our estimates, especially in countries that consume grains they buy on the world market. Ukraine is irreplaceable as a grain supplier, even in the long term. Its failure worsens Africa's supply and also drives up prices," Mahlkow said. "One way of increasing the world market supply of cereals quickly would be to reduce growing biofuel and to use the land for cereal grains. In Germany alone, this would affect three percent of all cropland. However, such a decision must be made fast, as sowing begins in the coming weeks" (Own Calculation, KITE Trade Model). If less grain is available, prices will rise as a result, in some cases dramatically. According to the simulation, other cereals would become more than 24 percent more expensive in the long term in Tunisia, almost 9 percent in Algeria and Libya, and more than 4 percent in Egypt. The permanent increase in the price of wheat would be nearly 9 percent in Kenya, almost 8 percent in Uganda, 5 percent in Tunisia, 4 percent in Mozambique, and over 3 percent in Egypt. Western countries would be far less affected than the African continent by the loss of Ukraine as a grain supplier. Western countries are not as dependent on imports and can better compensate for the shortfall. Germany, for example, would import 4.8 percent less other cereals in the long term, which would result in a moderate price increase of around 2 percent (K Hellon, 11 March 2022).

As the country is one of the most important grain exporters in the world, and especially relevant for Africa. Losing Ukraine as a supplier will noticeably worsen the supply situation across the continent," says Hendrik Mahlkow, trade researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. Jointly with Tobias

Heidland, Research Director for International Development and member of the Africa Research Cluster, he used the KITE (Kiel Institute Trade Policy Evaluation) trade model to simulate the long-term consequences for Africa of an end of exports of Ukrainian wheat and other cereals for food production, such as corn or sorghum. The model calculations did not include cereals used as animal feed, such as corn. Accordingly, Tunisia and Egypt, in particular, would be negatively affected. In Tunisia, the country's total wheat imports would permanently decrease by over 15 percent and imports of other cereals would decrease by almost 25 percent. Egypt would import over 17 percent less wheat and almost 19 percent less other cereals, while South Africa would import 7 percent less wheat and over 16 percent less other cereals. Imports of other cereals would also be noticeably lower in Cameroon (-14 %) and Algeria and Libya (-9.6 %, aggregated in the trade model). Wheat imports would drop significantly in Ethiopia (-9.6 %), Kenya (-7.9 %), Uganda (-7.1 %), Morocco (-6.2 %), and Mozambique (-6 %). (Kiel Trade Indicator 03/22: World trade in downturn 06.04.2022).

The Oxford Economics Africa analysts also suggests that Africa's major grain producing countries like South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe stand to benefit from favorable terms of trade shocks resulting from anticipated higher prices of cereals. Already the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had in September last year projected that Africa would break its five-year record by 6%, to produce 218 million tons of cereals in 2021. FAO's quarterly Global Crop prospects and food situation 2021 forecast that cereal production in southern African countries would rise 22% above the 2016-2020 average, to 40.6 million tons. In South Africa, production of maize and other cereals like wheat is seen reaching 19.5 million tons, a 24% growth above last five-year average, which FAO says will be the second largest harvest recorded over the period. In Zimbabwe, the maize harvest has also increased to an above-average level of 2.7 million tons, nearly tripling the 2020 output level, as sorghum and millet production soars in the country. Maize harvests in Malawi and Zambia, are estimated at 4.1 million and 3.6 million tons respectively this year. Africa's commodity-exporting countries are primed to benefit from the impact of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, according to experts. Commodity prices including oil, gas, maize, and wheat—top global exports for the two countries in conflict—have begun rising on fears over the impact of sanctions slapped on Russia. Brent crude oil rose to \$130 a barrel on Mar. 8, as the price of natural gas began to skyrocket across Europe on war-induced disruption of global supply chains (Conrad Onyango, March 10, 2022).

## 1. The Roots of the Republic of South Africa Offensive against Ukraine in Support of Russian Naked Aggression of 2022

### 1.1. Establishment of Solid Diplomatic Relations in the Post-Soviet Era as Sovereign States

South African-Ukrainian relations refer to the current and historical relations between South Africa and Ukraine. South Africa established an embassy in Kyiv in October 1992 while Ukraine established an embassy in Pretoria in 1995. The first South Africa Ambassador to Ukraine was called Groenewald A J. while that of Ukraine to South Africa was known as Abravitova L. In 2008 South Africa was ranked second (after Ghana) among all African countries in terms of products exported to Ukraine. In that year, trade between the two countries had grown 5.4 times to \$375.1 million. By 2021 South Africa exported R434.83 million (US\$ 28.98 million) and imported R730.10 million (US\$ 48.67 million) worth of goods to and from Ukraine (Ukraine, South Africa discuss trade, economic cooperation, Interfax-Ukraine (September 16, 2009) "*Trade Balance Graph for 2014 – 2022*". SARS. Retrieved 21 April 2022). Despite being a publicly strong proponent of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states South Africa has avoided criticizing Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and instead weakly argued for solidarity amongst BRICS nations (Rumer, Andrew S. Weiss 2022-02-28).

Partly because of rich soils and a favorable climate, Ukraine's crop production is highly developed.

Its output of grain and potatoes is among the highest in Europe, and it is among the world's largest producers of sugar beets and sunflower oil. What does South Africa export to Ukraine? The main products that South Africa exported to Ukraine were Tanned Equine and Bovine Hides (\$29.6M), Cars (\$13.3M), and Citrus (\$8.49M). During the last 25 years the exports of South Africa to Ukraine have increased at an annualized rate of 12.7%, from \$3.92M in 1995 to \$78.1M in 2020. South Africa Imports from Ukraine was US\$34.05 Million during 2020, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. South Africa Imports from Ukraine - data, historical chart and statistics - was last updated on April of 2022. Russian break the treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership signed with Ukraine and the Russian Federation on May 31, 1997, became effective on April 1, 2000 and expired on March 31, 2019 and finally in February 2022, Russian invaded Ukraine shamelessly looking at tables No. 1, 2 and 3 below in terms of commercial relations.

### 1.2. Commercial Relations between Ukraine and South Africa 2012-2020

This goes strictly to visit the table No. 1 below indicating the type of goods imported by South Africa from from Ukraine which are at the same time exportation of Ukraine to South Africa. Then table No.2 brings out South African exportation to Ukraine which is Ukraine importation from South Africa. Then table No. 3 brings a clue indicating South African exportation to Russian as opposed Ukraine in comparative analyses.

**Table 1: Different items Imported by South Africa from Ukraine Value in Million U.S Dollars IN 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020**

	Types of imported goods	Amounts	Year
1	Cereals	14.40	2020
2	Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers	4.00	--
3	Milling products, malt, starches, inlin, wheat gluten	2.67	--
4	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	2.22	--
5	Electrical, electronic equipment	1.99	--
6	Animal, vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products	1.91	--
7	Cereal, flour, starch, milk preparations and products	1.40	--
8	Commodities not specified according to kind	894.13	--
9	Articles of iron or steel	660.17	---
10	Tobacco and manufactures tobacco substitutes	429.87	---
11	Paper and paperboard, articles of pulp, paper and board	421.83	--
12	Oil seed, oleagic fruits, grain, seed, fruits	317.28	--
13	Dairy products, eggs, honey, edible products	276.80	--
14	Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products	244.41	--
15	Articles of apparel, not knit or crocheted	233.45	--
16	Aluminum	190.41	--
17	Albuminoids, modified starches, glues, enzymes	177.25	--
18	Railway, tramway locomotives, rolling stock, equipment	174.32	--
19	Miscellaneous edible preparations	153.19	--
20	Optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus	132.08	--
21	Organic chemicals	131.04	--
22	Miscellaneous chemical products	126.97	--
23	Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials	93.91	--
24	Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal	83.88	--
25	Coffee, tea, mate and spices	80.91	--
26	Rubbers	67.62	--
27	Articles of apparel, knit or crocheted	62.11	--

	<b>Types of imported goods</b>	<b>Amounts</b>	<b>Year</b>
28	Aircraft, spacecraft	57.20	--
29	Toys, games, sports requisites	57.18	--
30	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	45.80	--
31	Glass and glassware	42.63	--
32	Furniture, lighting signs, prefabricated buildings	41.32	--
33	Sugars and sugar confectionery	39.39	--
34	Iron and steel	35.60	--
35	Vegetable, fruit, nut food preparations	29.84	--
36	Plastics	27.66	--
37	Ceramic products	20.79	--
38	Other made textile articles, sets, worn clothing	20.18	--
39	Tools, implements, cutlery of base metal	19.37	--
40	Articles of leather, animal gut, harness, travel good	18.20	--
41	Vehicles other than railway, tramway	15.24	--
42	Essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, toileteries	12.38	--
43	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	11.87	--
44	Inorganic chemicals, precious metal compound, isotope	6.94	--
45	Printed books, newspapers, pictures	4.97	--
46	Footwear, gaiters and the like,	4.96	--
47	Pharmaceutical products	1.75	--
48	Miscellaneous articles of base metal	1.42	--
49	Musical instruments, parts and accessories	1.38	--
50	Clocks and watches	1.27	--
51	Bird skin, feathers, artificial flowers, human hair	670	--
52	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques	657	--
53	Special woven or tufted fabric, lace, tapestry	589	--
54	Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins	587	--
55	Salt, sulphur, earth, stone, plaster, lime and cement	564	--
56	Tanning, dyeing extracts, tannins, derivatives, pigments	251	--
57	Headgear	220	--
58	Live animals	71	--
59	Manmade staple fibers	52	--
60	Impregnated, coated or laminated textile fabric	52	--
61	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	47	--
62	Soaps, lubricants, waxes, candles, modelling pastes	41	--
63	Knitted or crocheted fabric	18	--
	<b>TOTAL 2020</b>	<b>933,477</b>	
64	Ores slag and ash	179.50	2019
65	Arms and ammunition, parts and accessories	84.99	--
66	Carpets and other textile floor coverings	5.61	--
67	Live trees, plants, bulbs, roots, cut flowers	3.15	--
68	Wadding, felt, nonwovens, yarns, twine, cordage	615	--
69	Raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather	342	--
70	Vegetable plaiting materials, vegetable products	226	--
	<b>TOTAL 2019</b>	<b>145,625</b>	
71	Copper	2.78	2018
72	Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons	100.54	--
73	Residues, wastes of food industry, animal fodder	24.02	--
74	Ships, boats, and other floating structures	4.68	--
	<b>TOTAL 2018</b>	<b>132,02</b>	
75	Fertilizers	24.46	2017
76	Manmade filaments	1.43	--
77	Cotton	0	--
	<b>TOTAL 2017</b>	<b>25.89</b>	
78	Nickel	3.16	2013
79	Furskins and artificial fur, manufactures	774	--
	<b>TOTAL 2013</b>	<b>777.17</b>	
80	Base metals not specified elsewhere, cermet.	4.85	2012
81	Meat, fish and seafood preparations	52	--
	<b>TOTAL 2013</b>	<b>56.85</b>	
	<b>OVERAL TOTAL</b>	<b>873,290,316</b>	

**Sources:** Adapted from Trading Economics data 2022. Ukraine Exports: Goods: Africa | Economic Indicators | CEIC <https://www.ceicdata.com> > ... > Exports: by Continent. Ukraine (UKR) and South Africa (ZAF) Trade | OEC <https://oec.world> > bilateral-country > ukr > partner > zaf

Ukraine Exports — Ukraine-South Africa In 2020, Ukraine exported \$39.3M to South Africa. The main products that Ukraine exported to South Africa

are... *"Trade Balance Graph for 2014 – 2022"*. Ukraine Exports to South Africa - Trading Economics, <https://tradingeconomics.com/sout...>

**Table 2: South African Exports to Ukraine 2020**

	Types of goods	Value in million US Dollars
1	Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons	8.39
2	Nickel	2.88
3	Ores slag and ash	2.02
4	Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers	1.12
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14.41</b>

**Sources:** Adapted from Trading Economics data 2022. Ukraine (UKR) and South Africa (ZAF) Trade | OEC <https://oec.world/bilateral-country/ukr/partner/zaf>

Ukraine Exports — Ukraine-South Africa In 2020, Ukraine exported \$39.3M to South Africa. The main products that Ukraine exported to South Africa are

...Ukraine Exports to South Africa - Trading Economics <https://tradingeconomics.com/sout...> *"Trade Balance Graph for 2014 – 2022"*.

**Table 3: South African Exports to Russia 2020**

No	Types of goods	Value in million US Dollars
1	Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons	284.80
2	Ores slag and ash	150.08
3	Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers	61.85
4	Vehicles other than railway, tramway	56.44
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>553.17</b>

**Sources:** Adapted from Trading Economics data 2022. Wheat flour: Russia-Ukraine crisis raises fears of additional ... <https://www.journalducameroun.com> > ... *"Trade Balance Graph for 2014 – 2022"*.

Looking at the three tables above, the rate of disparity between the volume of exported and imported goods and their values from South Africa to Ukraine and Russia are remarkable. This means that South Africa export much to Russia and less to Ukraine but highly depended on Ukrainian products. However, the authorities' decision to support the Russian backing of the two secessionist regions against the legitimate Ukrainian Government is questionable.

### 1.3. South African International Controversy over Russian Aggression of Ukraine Facing Justified and Unjustified Counter Argument at the Ranks of its Potential Institutional and Political Actors

Although initially critical of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine- South Africa sought to repair and maintain friendly relations with Russia. South Africa was one of 35 countries that abstained from voting on a United Nations condemnation of Russia's invasion of the country. Ukraine's ambassador to South Africa described South Africa's stance at the UN as "puzzling", "unacceptable" and "alarming." Ukraine's ambassador to South Africa later stated that her country was finding it difficult to engage with the South African government on the issue due to lingering goodwill towards Russia; the ambassador stated that this was because of the Soviet Union's assistance to the anti-apartheid struggle which the ruling African National Congress (ANC) views as being provided by Russia (*Fabricius, Peter (2022- 02-27, Felix, Jason, 2022-02-*

28). On 20 April 2022 South African president Cyril Ramaphosa and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky discussed the war. Seven weeks after Ramaphosa discussed the war with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The length of time between Ramaphosa's discussions with the two and the reported difficulty that the Ukrainians had in organizing the meeting was controversial. A March 2022 draft resolution presented by South Africa to the United Nations was criticized by Ukraine for favouring Russia and not consulting it on the resolution. The South African draft resolution omitted any mention of Russia's aggressive actions towards Ukraine; instead an alternative resolution proposed by France and Mexico that explicitly mentioned Russia as the aggressor was adopted. President Ramaphosa stated that South Africans "in the main" support the South African government's neutral position on the war (U.N. Security Council 2022-03-23; *Nkanjeni, Unathi, 25 March 2022*).

A month into the war in Ukraine, South Africa, one of the few African countries wielding diplomatic influence outside the continent, has stuck its neck out, adamantly refusing to condemn Russian aggression. Pretoria says it would rather be neutral and allow negotiations to end the conflict (Johannesburg AFP, 2022). It sponsored a resolution at the UN General Assembly, calling for the provision of humanitarian aid to Ukraine, but avoided mentioning Russia's role in the

conflict. That resolution was rejected. Pretoria had abstained from voting on another resolution that demanded an immediate halt to the Russian onslaught. Earlier this month, South Africa was one of the 17 African countries to abstain from voting on another UN resolution calling on Russia to cease fire. Back home fiery debates on South Africa's position on the war rage on. President Cyril Ramaphosa, an experienced conflict mediator, says he won't be swayed into adopting an "adversarial" position, yet blames NATO for Moscow's invasion. "The war could have been avoided if NATO had heeded the warnings from among its own leaders and officials over the years that its eastward expansion would lead to greater, not less, instability in the region," he told parliament recently. But Ramaphosa, who has helped mediate in conflicts in Africa and Northern Ireland, also said: "We cannot condone the use of force or violation of international law." (Issued on: 28/03/2022 - 13:42 Modified: 28/03/2022). The President's declaration was as follows: "We are with Russia". The war has created strange bedfellows between the South African government and opposition radical leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) party. EFF leader Julius Malema declared: "We are with Russia," urging Russia to teach NATO and America "a lesson". Addressing a recent human rights rally, Malema turned to history to justify his defence of Russia which "equipped us with weapons, gave us money to fight apartheid" (Fiery debates, AFP/File, Issued, 28/03/2022). In fact, Jacob Zuma stated as follows:

*We will never denounce Russia," he vowed. The Kremlin and many African countries have strong, long-running historical ties dating back to the 1960s Cold War when it provided military training and assistance to freedom fighters. The former President Jacob Zuma also threw his weight behind Putin saying the invasion "looks justifiable ... Russia felt provoked". "A member of BRICS is now at the crosshairs of bullies," said a statement from Zuma's office. Russia had pushed for South Africa to become a member of the once-influential club of emerging economies which include Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICS). Zuma, who was on the verge of signing a multi-billion-dollar nuclear energy deal with Russia before his 2018 forced resignation, said he knows Putin as "man of peace". Government later abandoned what would have been a crushingly expensive nuclear power deal. Elsewhere, the main opposition Democratic Alliance leader John Steenhuisen lambasted Pretoria's "shameful foreign policy decisions", and its "cowardly and immoral position" on the conflict. In a show of solidarity with Kyiv, the DA-led Cape Town government this month illuminated the historic City Hall in yellow-and-blue Ukraine national colours. Nelson Mandela addressed crowds on the balcony of the hall following his 1990 release from prison. Even the clergy is incensed ( ). Desmond Tutu's successor, Anglican Bishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba, said he was distressed by "South Africa's silence on the horrific bombing of*

*health facilities and civilians in Ukraine". "Where is our ubuntu (Zulu for togetherness), our humanity?" he asked.*

Ordinary people are already reeling from a hike in fuel prices and are bracing for another round of increases in future. South Africa imports most of its oil from Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Angola. And the government has allayed fears of wheat shortages, thanks to last season's good harvest. While many other African countries have been conspicuously silent over Russia's invasion of its neighbour, South Africa's fence-sitting thrusts Pretoria's diplomacy under the spotlight. "Government is creating a growing public relations disaster... with its diplomatic egg-dance," wrote journalist Peter Fabricius, warning it risked "rapidly losing friends both at home and abroad". University of Cape Town's Jeremy Seeking's finds it "extraordinary that a government of democratic South Africa which came to power through a long struggle for democracy against...the apartheid state which was of imperial power, is now defending Russian imperialism and against a democracy". South Africa's "influence" is declining and could lose its powerhouse status to Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal. But Chidochashe Chere of the University of Johannesburg sees "nothing that compels South Africa to condemn Russia". "It's only wise for South Africa to choose its battles; it will want to engage with both countries in the long run" (AFP, 2022).

According to Peter Fabricius in 2022, hundreds of South Africans and others in the Southern African region are eager to join the Ukrainian foreign legion that the country's President, Volodymyr Zelensky, is establishing for volunteers who wish to help Ukraine fight the Russian invaders. Ukraine's Ambassador to South Africa, Liubov Abravitova, told the Cape Town Press Club on Friday that "anyone who wanted to join Ukraine's fight against Russia was welcome". She added that Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's idea was not new as France already had a foreign legion. The Ambassador said her embassy in Pretoria, and she personally, had received "hundreds" of requests from would-be fighters. "Of course, first of all, I say, 'you can help by volunteering with humanitarian work, you can help with finance.' But they say, 'We want to fight.'" "However, she had to tell these would-be volunteers to be patient while she awaited a legal opinion from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation on the legality of this recruitment. She is also seeking the opinions of the nine other states in southern Africa to which the Ukraine embassy in Pretoria is accredited, as each country had regulations on such recruitment. She said they had received requests from people from... (Fabricius, Peter, March 26, 2022). On her part, South Africa has taken a China-like stance of "quiet diplomacy" on the Russian war on Ukraine, urging citizens not to "take sides", the deputy minister of

International Relations and Cooperation, Candith Mashego-Dlamini, said during a parliamentary debate on the economic impact of the conflict on Tuesday. "As the government of South Africa, we urge all South Africans not to take sides [in] the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, as this could go against our principles. In addition, South Africa has good bilateral relations with both countries," said Mashego-Dlamini. The mood in the house, however, was anything but quiet or neutral as members of the national assembly declared their support for and against Russia because the ANC's historical ally and Ukraine, while heckling those who dared to hold an opposing view (Daily Maverick, March 13, 2022).

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Thursday that his country has been asked to mediate in the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Ramaphosa however did not say who made the request and how the mediation was going to take place. Russia and Ukraine on the other hand have not yet made any official communication to confirm the mediation process by South Africa. Ramaphosa said in a tweet that he had wanted to "gain an understanding of the situation that was unfolding between Russia and Ukraine and – if need be – with the help of agencies that can help bring a solution to the conflict. Russian and South Africa have both had a cordial bilateral relationship that stems from the Soviet Union era when they trained the anti-apartheid activists during the cold war (Valery Sharifulin, March 11, 2022). South Africa was among the 35 countries that voted to abstain during the recent UN resolution that saw the global body condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In a statement, the Kremlin said the leaders had exchanged congratulations on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and South Africa. The two presidents also "reaffirmed their commitment to further develop the bilateral strategic partnership, noting, in particular, their readiness to expand trade, economic and humanitarian cooperation, as well as joint Covid-19 response efforts". Members of the South African Russian association together with Ukrainian and Lithuanian nationals demonstrate in Mandela Square in Sandton, Johannesburg, on February 27, 2022 against the Russian invasion of Ukraine. South Africans should not 'take sides' in Ukraine invasion, DIRCO tells parliament (Photo by LUCA SOLA / AFP) (Photo by LUCA SOLA/AFP via Getty Images).

When a lone call by DIRCO for Russia to withdraw its army is hastily retracted and the minister admonished, you don't have to read between the lines. And when our president calls Putin in the middle of his invasion, pledging to strengthen bilateral ties – as the rest of the world isolates him – you don't have to read between the lines," Steenhuisen said. "The same ANC that once relied on global solidarity in its fight against oppression has now openly sided with the oppressor," he said. But Economic Freedom Fighters MP, Floyd

Shivambu, described Russia as a close "friend", fighting former imperialist expansion in Eastern Europe, which SA must "never abandon". He said the USSR and Russia had dedicated resources to the struggle against apartheid. He said the EFF would never forgive Nato for the killing of Muammar Gaddafi. "We stand as the EFF to affirm that the relationship built through blood and common purpose against colonialism and Apartheid must be strengthened. We stand as the EFF to reaffirm our relationship with Russia," he said. PAC MP, Mzwanele Myhontso, said the war would affect all African countries. "The price of oil, petrol, and gas has gone sky high. We take a stand and condemn Russia and America for threatening world peace. We condemn Russia and America for abuse of power which affects the lives and livelihoods of Africans and call for them to immediately end the war," he said. Aljamah'ah MP, Mogamad Hendricks, said Steenhuisen's remarks were "very unpatriotic". He said his party supported meaningful engagement and a ceasefire. NFP MP, Ahmed Emam, said a negotiated settlement would prevent loss of life, but he questioned the partiality of concern. "When people in Palestine, Syria and Iraq are losing their lives, raped and murdered, we hear nothing. When Ukrainians violate the human rights of other Ukrainians there is no concern. In India, why are people not raising the issue of the rights of Christians and Muslims whose rights are being violated by the government?" (Danielle Resnick, February 25, 2022).

Some highlighted human rights abuses in other parts of the world such as Palestine, Iraq and India, asking why no-one was concerned about these crimes, while others noted SA had negotiated a peaceful transition to democracy and could assist with mediation. As parliamentarians debated the impact of the conflict after SA abstained from voting in support of Ukraine at the UN Council, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky told representatives of the UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) via video link on Tuesday that the country could never join NATO. He urged other European nations to help his country, warning that they could be targeted by Russia. Mashego-Dlamini said South Africa's approach to the Russian invasion of Ukraine was rooted in its foreign policy. She said the government expressed "deep concern at violations of the UN Charter and international law, the loss of life, the humanitarian impact and the forced displacement of people as a result of the war in Ukraine". She said SA respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and had together with other BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries expressed concern at conflicts across the world. "BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of states and reiterated that all conflicts must be resolved by peaceful means and through political and diplomatic efforts, in line with the international Law of the UN charter," Mashego-Dlamini said. "As a nation birthed



through negotiation, South Africa is always appreciative of the potential dialogue has in averting a crisis and de-escalating conflict. In line with our strong commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflict, South Africa urges all parties to devote increased efforts to diplomacy and to find a solution that will help avert further escalation," she added. She urged both sides to uphold and protect human rights and abide by international law. "South Africa supports the resolution process of inclusive talks led by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to address all the issues of concern to any of the parties..." Democratic Alliance (DA) leader, John Steenhuisen, said the government's "neutrality" placed it on the wrong side of history, and that it was siding with "the oppressor" who had committed an "unjustifiable act of war". "The world is facing its biggest threat of war in 80 years. A tyrannical aggressor with a finger on the nuclear button has invaded a far less powerful neighbour and is shelling civilian targets as we speak. Over two million Ukrainians have become overnight refugees as their homes and hospitals are bombed to rubble. President Vladimir Putin is acting with the impunity of a despot with nothing to lose," Steenhuisen said. "Every world leader with a moral conscience has condemned it and called on Russia to withdraw. But not South Africa's President Ramaphosa. Under a shameful veneer of 'neutrality' the ANC government has effectively pledged its tacit support for Putin's imperial march to restore his lost empire," he said (Daily Maverick, March 13, 2022).

He condemned Defence Minister Thandi Modise's attendance at a cocktail function at the home of Russian ambassador to SA, Ilya Rogachev, on the day Russia invaded Ukraine (Danielle Resnick, February 25, 2022). "When a lone call by DIRCO for Russia to withdraw its army is hastily retracted and the minister admonished, you don't have to read between the lines. And when our president calls Putin in the middle of his invasion, pledging to strengthen bilateral ties – as the rest of the world isolates him – you don't have to read between the lines," Steenhuisen said. "The same ANC that once relied on global solidarity in its fight against oppression has now openly sided with the oppressor," he said. But Economic Freedom Fighters MP, Floyd Shivambu, described Russia as a close "friend", fighting former imperialist expansion in Eastern Europe, which SA must "never abandon". He said the USSR and Russia had dedicated resources to the struggle against apartheid. He said the EFF would never forgive Nato for the killing of Muammar Gaddafi. "We stand as the EFF to affirm that the relationship built through blood and common purpose against colonialism and Apartheid must be strengthened. We stand as the EFF to reaffirm our relationship with Russia," he said. PAC MP, Mzwanele Myhontso, said the war would affect all African countries. "The price of oil, petrol, and gas has gone sky high. We take a stand and condemn Russia and America for threatening world

peace. We condemn Russia and America for abuse of power which affects the lives and livelihoods of Africans and call for them to immediately end the war," he said. Aljamah'ah MP, Mogamad Hendricks, said Steenhuisen's remarks were "very unpatriotic". He said his party supported meaningful engagement and a ceasefire. NFP MP, Ahmed Emam, said a negotiated settlement would prevent loss of life, but he questioned the partiality of concern. "When people in Palestine, Syria and Iraq are losing their lives, raped and murdered, we hear nothing. When Ukrainians violate the human rights of other Ukrainians there is no concern. In India, why are people not raising the issue of the rights of Christians and Muslims whose rights are being violated by the government?" (Danielle Resnick, February 25, 2022).

As in the rest of the world, Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24 is casting a long shadow across Africa. Despite the geographical distance, there are important ties between Ukraine and Africa, including more than 8,000 Moroccans and 4,000 Nigerians studying in Ukraine and over \$4 billion in exports from Ukraine to Africa. Despite being a publicly strong proponent of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states South Africa has avoided criticizing Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and instead weakly argued for solidarity amongst BRICS nations (Rumer, Andrew S. Weiss, *et al*, 2022-02-28). Although initially critical of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine (Fabricius, Peter, 2022-02-24). South Africa sought to repair and maintain friendly relations with Russia (Felix, Jason. 2022-02-2). South Africa was one of 35 countries that abstained from voting on a United Nations condemnation of Russia's invasion of the country (UN General Assembly, 2022-03-03). Ukraine's ambassador to South Africa described South Africa's stance at the UN as "puzzling", "unacceptable" and "alarming" (Khumalo, Junour 2022-03-04). Ukraine's ambassador to South Africa later stated that her country was finding it difficult to engage with the South African government on the issue due to lingering goodwill towards Russia; the ambassador stated that this was because of the Soviet Union's assistance to the anti-apartheid struggle which the ruling African National Congress (ANC) views as being provided by Russia. On 20 April 2022 South African president Cyril Ramaphosa and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky discussed the war. Seven weeks after Ramaphosa discussed the war with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The length of time between Ramaphosa's discussions with the two and the reported difficulty that the Ukrainians had in organising the meeting was controversial (Fabricius, Peter (2022-04-21). A March 2022 draft resolution presented by South Africa to the United Nations was criticized by Ukraine for favouring Russia and not consulting it on the resolution. The South African draft resolution omitted any mention of Russia's aggressive actions towards

Ukraine; instead an alternative resolution proposed by France and Mexico that explicitly mentioned Russia as the aggressor was adopted. President Ramaphosa stated that South Africans "in the main" support the South African government's neutral position on the war. Despite the South African governments position on the Russian invasion the Cape Town City hall was lite up in the colours of the Ukrainian flag to show the city's solidarity with the country (*Nkanjeni, Unathi, March 25, 2022*). Domestically the South African government's (headed by the ANC) tacit support for Russia was controversial leading to the Western Cape Government (headed by the opposition Democratic Alliance) to light up the provincial government buildings and the Cape Town City Hall in the colours of the Ukrainian flag in support of the country. The mayor of Cape Town went on to pledge support for the city of Kyiv in particular and Ukraine in general during the war. The Western Cape provincial cabinet later passed a resolution supporting Ukraine and condemning the Russian invasion (Premier Alan Winde, March 9, 2022). Many other long diplomatic declarations were issued over the hastiness of South African stance in support of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century aggressive Statesman with naked aggression over an independent country they bothly with other 13 formed USSR. The support of the two purported separatist regions as full independent Reupblics are unlawfull and which UN Resolution adopted that situation with full acknowledgment does not exist anywhere in the Organisation records of sovereign States.

Your Excellency Liubov Abravitova, Let me begin by extending my deep sympathy for the terrible events unfolding in your home country, Ukraine. Like many, I have watched with a mixture of horror and disbelief as the Russian military illegally entered Ukraine's sovereign territory and left only destruction in its wake. More than anything, it is the wanton disregard for human life which leaves one feeling empty. With time and great effort, roads can be repaved, bricks can be relayed, and homes can be rebuilt, but the lives of friends and family are lost to us forever. It is against this backdrop that I believe Clayson Monyela, South Africa's head of diplomacy, acted in haste in his response to your plea for an audience with our ministers in cabinet. Although his characterisation of your comments as "undiplomatic" may be procedurally accurate, I consider your actions to be in keeping with the spirit of your responsibilities as a diplomat. One may even ask what the job of a diplomat is if not to represent and advance the interests of their country. If South Africa were ever to face an aggressor on our soil, I pray that our diplomats would show the same resolve as you have. It is in this same spirit of advocating for the interests of one's country, that I write to you now. While I disagree with the sentiment expressed by Mr. Monyela, I must, unfortunately, agree with him on the substance. In a recent conversation, you explained that the reason for your request is to ensure

that our ministers receive firsthand knowledge of the situation in Ukraine. While I agree with the importance of unfettered communication between countries, that avenue has already been made available to you through the department of international relations and cooperation, and President Cyril Ramaphosa's adviser on international relations. It is their responsibility, under the guidance of the president, to convey the relevant information to his wider cabinet. Any similar conversation with South African ministers, especially those solely responsible for domestic affairs, would serve no further purpose. I point this out not because of a desire to maintain diplomatic decorum or an indifference to the plight of the Ukrainians. Rather, I believe that our ministers' time must be spent focusing on the humanitarian crises within our own borders. As Ukraine's ambassador to South Africa, I am sure you are familiar with the multitude of problems facing our nation. Our official unemployment rate, which excludes those who have given up their search for employment, has reached a record 35%. As a consequence, poverty has become endemic. A thin veneer of urban wealth disguises the 10 million South Africans living on less than \$1.90 a day (a little more than the price of one cup of café coffee). According to official statistics, 2.6 million South African homes do not have access to piped water; 1.7 million homes are not connected to the electrical grid; 5.9 million households still use pit latrines or buckets as toilets. It is a heartbreaking reality that millions of people in my country have never had access to the basic infrastructure that the Russian army is so callously destroying in yours. South Africans are also starving. In a recent survey, 35% of respondents reported running out of money to buy food. Researchers also found that 14% of households reported a child going hungry at least once in the preceding week. It bears noting that 4% of households reported a child going hungry for three to four days a week. Yet another study found developmental stunting in 216 out of 854 children surveyed (of whom 81 were classified as being severely stunted) and highlighted poor diet as one of the leading risk factors. These economic hardships, exacerbated by record levels of inequality, contribute to the persistent spectre of crime in South Africa. In 2020, nearly 20 000 people were needlessly murdered (10 times the current United Nations estimate for civilian deaths in Ukraine). South Africans can take little comfort in the fact that this represents the lowest number of homicides in the past four years. The unconscionable crime of rape continues to be a moral blight on our land; with more than 36 000 reported incidents in 2020 (the lowest number in a decade). One shudders to think how many thousands more go unreported. Though South Africa has not been the victim of an illegal war on its soil our humanitarian crisis is, in many ways, no less severe. A notable difference between the suffering of your people and mine is that our pain is, regrettably, not televised on the world stage. Tragically, this is a reality which many in

the developing world have had to become accustomed to. It is with these stark realities in mind that I believe the interest of South Africans, in particular those that are most vulnerable, would be best served by our ministers devoting every second of their day and every ounce of their strength towards alleviating the massive amounts of suffering in South Africa. It is my sincere hope that you do not construe my words as indifference, or a veiled attempt at fanning the flames of nationalism. Had South Africa's fate been different, I would similarly advocate that it is our moral imperative to do whatever is possible to prevent the human suffering in Ukraine. Unfortunately, that is not the hand which we have been dealt (Danielle Resnick, February 25, 2022).

## **2. Africa in More Technical Dangerous Situations in the Face of Food Crisis as Ingredients of Future Socio-Political Chaos**

### **2.1 The Importance of the Two Protagonists (Russia and Ukraine) in Terms of International Economy Strengths with Frequent Worries by Heavy Imported Dependent Countries from the Latters**

Ukraine is home to 25% of the world's famously fertile black soils – or chernozem – according to the US Department of Commerce, and the effect of disruptions in wheat supply will be adding to the cost of living crisis. "Interruption to the flow of grain out of the Black Sea region will increase prices and add further fuel to food inflation at a time when its affordability is a concern across the globe, following the economic damage caused by the Covid-19 pandemic," explained Beasley. In a year of unprecedented humanitarian crisis, this will also affect the WFP's efforts to supply food to the areas with the direst needs. "We get 50% of our grains out of the Ukraine-Russia area; it is going have a dramatic impact on food costs, shipping costs, oil and fuel," said Beasley in a social media video posted from Yemen. "Just when you think it couldn't get worse, it gets worse. This is a catastrophe on top of catastrophe here in Yemen." The current crisis comes as the WFP warns that 811 million people go to bed hungry every night around the world, with the number of those facing acute food insecurity having jumped from 135 million to 283 million since 2019 – a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic (Marina Leiva, 2 March, 2022). Speaking at the European Parliament on 28 February, Michael Scannell, deputy director-general of the EU's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, painted a picture of the repercussions of the invasion for global food markets, explaining that Ukraine and Russia account for more than 30% of world trade in wheat. "That clearly is going to have a huge impact as traders rush to try to find alternative markets, but it is not just wheat," he said. "The situation is similar for a range of other commodities. For barley, for example, these two countries account for 32% of international trade. For corn, it is 17%, and sunflower oil and seeds and meals is over 50%." Thus, EU countries will not only be

affected by the halt in wheat imports from Ukraine and Russia, the meat and dairy industries are also poised to take a hit, as Ukrainian maize is essential for livestock feed, on top of the hike in prices caused by the reliance on Russian gas and fertilizers. In the case of maize, globally, only approximately 12% of maize is consumed for food, while approximately 60% is destined for livestock feed, explains Erin Collier, economist at the trade and markets division of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), speaking to Investment Monitor. "The countries that Ukraine exports the most maize to are China and those in the EU," she adds. "Those countries have the capacity to import supplies from other countries," she says, adding that problems will come if global supplies become tighter, as the hardest hit will be countries in Africa, "where maize is a food source (Marina Leiva, 2 March, 2022). For example, the Ukraine Flour Mills (UFM)/ Leading Exporters of Ukraine Wheat Flour: 1st Choice Supplier of Wheat Flour, Feed and Grain to Middle East, Africa and Asia.

The relentless shelling of Ukraine is obscuring a shadow crisis created by the war: long-term damage to the global food system that seems likely to increase hunger, disrupt markets, change land and water use, and possibly even release more carbon into the atmosphere. Russia and Ukraine are Europe's breadbasket; the International Food Policy Research Institute estimates that their exports represent 12 percent of all the food calories traded in the world. The two countries account for almost 30 percent of global wheat exports, almost 20 percent of corn exports, and more than 80 percent of the world supply of sunflower oil. Those exports are stalled for different reasons—in Ukraine by Russia's invasion, and in Russia by global sanctions—but the net effect is the same. It's as if Iowa and Illinois, the heart of US grain production, were ripped off the map. The crop crisis in Ukraine has several components. Goods that have already been harvested—last autumn's corn, for instance—can't be transported out of the country; ports and shipping routes are closed down, and international trading companies have ceased operations for safety. (Plus, while those crops sit in bins, destruction of the country's power grid takes out the temperature controls and ventilation that keep them from spoiling (Wandile S , 2022). This year's wheat, which will be ready in July, can't be harvested if there's no fuel for combines and no labor to run them. Farmers are struggling over whether to plant for next season—if they can even obtain seeds and fertilizer, for which supplies look uncertain. (Russia is the world's biggest exporter of fertilizers; it suspended shipments last week.) Global food prices spiked to an all-time high before the war even began, thanks to the pressure that the Covid pandemic put on supply chains, and wheat prices are now at a 14-year peak. Analysts worry that the countries that buy the most wheat from Ukraine—predominantly in Africa and the Middle East—will have the hardest time paying as prices rise.

Another key cereal, wheat, is a staple crop used to make flour and is vital to many vulnerable countries. With Russia being the leading global exporter of wheat in 2020 and Ukraine the fifth largest, some countries will be particularly vulnerable if they rely heavily on both for their wheat imports. Some of the main importers from both Russia and Ukraine are: Egypt, where a total of \$3.02bn worth of wheat was imported in 2019, \$1.44bn came from Russia, and \$773.4m from Ukraine. Ethiopia, where a total of \$458,42m worth of wheat was imported in 2019, \$142.01m came from Ukraine and \$64.77m from Russia. Yemen, where a total of \$549.89m worth of wheat was imported in 2019, \$145.81m came from Russia and \$79.8m from Ukraine. Lebanon, where a total of \$148.49m of wheat was imported in 2020, \$119.1m came from Ukraine and \$22.93m from Russia. Palestine, where a total of \$10.98m worth of wheat was imported in 2020, \$5.61m came from Israel (mostly via Ukraine and Russia) and \$3.57m direct from Russia. Also, in 2019, Israel imported a total of \$364.48m of wheat, of which \$102.55m came from Ukraine and \$90.43m from Russia. 2 March, 2022. (...<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/black-africa...>).

Wheat and other grains are back at the heart of geopolitics following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Both countries play a major role in the global agricultural market. African leaders must pay attention. There is significant agricultural trade between countries on the continent and Russia and Ukraine. African countries imported agricultural products worth \$4 billion from Russia in 2020. About 90 per cent of this was wheat, and 6 per cent was sunflower oil. Major importing countries were Egypt, which accounted for nearly half of the imports, followed by Sudan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Algeria, Kenya and South Africa. Similarly, Ukraine exported \$2.9 billion worth of agricultural products to the African continent in 2020. About 48 per cent of this was wheat, 31 per cent maize, and the rest included sunflower oil, barley, and soybeans. Russia and Ukraine are substantial players in the global commodities market. Russia produces about 10 per cent of global wheat while Ukraine accounts for 4 per cent. Combined, this is nearly the size of the European Union's total wheat production. The wheat is for domestic consumption as well as export markets (Wandile S , 2022). Together, the two countries account for a quarter of global wheat exports. In 2020 Russia accounted for 18 percent and Ukraine 8 per cent. Both countries are also notable players in maize, responsible for a combined maize production of 4 per cent. However, Ukraine and Russia's contribution is even more significant in exports, accounting for 14 per cent of global maize exports in 2020. Both countries are also among the leading producers and exporters of sunflower oil. In 2020, Ukraine's sunflower oil exports accounted for 40 per cent of global exports, with Russia accounting for 18 per cent of global sunflower oil exports (Wandile S , 2022). Some countries on the

continent, such as South Africa, benefit from exporting fruit to Russia. In 2020 Russia accounted for 7 per cent of South Africa's citrus exports in value terms. And it accounted for 12 per cent of South Africa's apples and pears exports in the same year — the country's second largest market. But from Africa's perspective, Russia and Ukraine's agricultural imports from the continent are marginal — averaging only \$1,6 billion in the past three years. The dominant products are fruits, tobacco, coffee, and beverages in both countries (Wandile S , 2022). Russia is the world's largest exporter of wheat, accounting for more than 18 percent of international exports. In 2019, Russia and Ukraine together exported more than a quarter (25.4 percent) of the world's wheat, according to the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC). Wheat is the second most-produced grain in the world after corn. For centuries, it has been cultivated by humans and is essential for making bread, pasta and other food staples. In recent months, the United States and its allies have warned that Russia — which has 100,000 soldiers massed on the border with Ukraine — could invade at any moment. Russia has denied that and opposes NATO bases near its borders. In the event of outright aggression, the flow of wheat and grain could be disrupted. Economic sanctions or military action could have a significant effect on the cost of food as importers seek to find alternatives (Hanna Duggal and Mohammed Haddad, 17 Feb 2022). In 2019, Egypt, Turkey and Bangladesh bought more than half of Russia's wheat. Egypt is the world's biggest importer of wheat. It spends more than \$4bn annually to feed its population of over 100 million. Combined, Russia and Ukraine cover more than 70 percent of Egypt's imported wheat demand. Turkey is also a big spender on Russian and Ukrainian wheat with 74 percent of its imports worth \$1.6bn coming from those two countries in 2019. In the crop year of 2021-22, Turkey was the largest buyer of Russian wheat, purchasing 4.5 million metric tons as of December 30, 2021. Egypt bought 3.2 million metric tons from Russia over the same period (<https://www.aa.com.tr/africa/uk-...https://www.aa.com.tr/africa/uk-...>).

Ukraine is the fifth largest exporter of wheat, accounting for seven percent of sales globally in 2019. Considered the breadbasket of Europe, 71 percent of Ukraine's land is agricultural. It is also home to a quarter of the world's 'black soil', or chernozem, which is highly fertile. Wheat is linked to a painful history in Ukraine. In 1932, the Holodomor or Great Famine, which saw millions of Ukrainians die of starvation, was the result of deadly political decisions by Joseph Stalin to collectivize agriculture and confiscate farmers' land. (Hanna Duggal and Mohammed Haddad, 17 Feb 2022). Russia and Ukraine's chief exports, Russia exported \$407bn in products and Ukraine \$49bn in 2019. While Russia is the world's biggest exporter of wheat, among other products, Ukraine is the biggest exporter of seed oils. Russia's bilateral trade with Ukraine has tanked from its

peak of almost \$50bn in 2011 to \$11bn in 2019. Russia remains one of Ukraine's biggest trade partners. The Black Sea is a key geo-economic region for Russia and Ukraine, who rely heavily on the ports for agricultural and industrial exports. For Ukraine, Odessa, Kherson and Mykolaiv are key ports for international trade flows. In the event of war, wheat and grain flows could be affected, as 95 percent of Ukraine's wheat exports were transported via the Black Sea in 2020. With the price of food already high due to inflation, importers may seek to find alternatives. The Black Sea is a key region for Moscow. According to Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think-tank focused on geopolitics, it would allow Russia to protect trade links with European markets as well as up the dependency of southern Europe on Russian oil and gas and act as a security buffer zone (Al Jazeera and News Agencies). In the early 1980s, corn and wheat accounted for two-thirds of US exports to the USSR. In 1985, the USSR imported a mammoth 55 million metric tons of wheat. Now, Russia has become the largest exporter of wheat worldwide. In 2001, it accounted for just one percent of wheat exports worldwide. That increased to its highest of 26.4 percent in 2018. Following the collapse of the USSR, the government removed barriers to business allowing farmers to penetrate the global market as well as to invest in agricultural technology. The creation of ports and the devaluation of the trouble have also contributed to Russia gaining the lion's share on wheat sales. Today, Russia ships more than 18 percent of the world's supply, followed by the US (16 percent), Canada (14 percent), France (10 percent) and Ukraine (70 percent) (Hanna Duggal and Mohammed Haddad, 17 Feb 2022).

## 2.2. The Question of African Diaspora in Ukraine in View of South African Diplomatic Blunders

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine has put a spotlight on alleged racism. The concern: immigrants from Africa and other people of color who call Ukraine home. As millions flee Ukraine, there are accusations of discrimination toward these refugees. In the United States, the issue has gotten the attention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Urban League, which signed a letter to the president of the European Union calling for fair and humane treatment for all. From day one of the Russian invasion, reports of discrimination at Ukraine's border began to surface. One student from Ghana described what she saw and experienced. "Mostly they would, they would consider White people first. White people first, Indian people, Arabic people before Black people," said Ethel Ansaeh Otto. Another student, from Morocco, said: "We went to the train station and they will not let us in." "And when they did let us in, they were like, 'You have to give us money because this is, and this is not for free for you because you are foreign. This is not free for you,'" said Selma El Alai. On social media, some wrote it off as Russian propaganda. But

Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, tweeted a video in early March saying an emergency hotline had been established specifically for African, Asian and other students wishing to leave Ukraine. Historian Kimberly St. Julian Varnon has studied race, foreign policy and Russia for years and called Ukraine home back in 2013 (CBS New, March 12, 2022). It's one of those things where, if you are a person of color and you work in Eastern Europe, and you research Eastern Europe, racism isn't new, I mean, racial discrimination is not new, but to see it on display and being exacerbated by war, it was just really heart-wrenching," she told CBS News' Jericka Duncan. Especially heart-wrenching, she said, when considering Syrian refugees who in December sought help at the Poland-Belarus border with little to no success. "I think the key difference is race and ethnicity," St. Julian Varnon said. While social media has helped expose racial discrimination, St. Julian-Varnon said it has also been used by Russia to spread disinformation. Students from Africa and other countries make up a small population. But as St. Julian Varnon explained, it is not good for people to be discriminated against in this way. She is in touch with several students who made it to Hungary. She said many of them are now considered third-country nationals and have been told they must move to another country or go back home within 30 days

After recently learning about the treatment of African people in Ukraine and on the subject of standing in solidarity with them: I can't get with it until Ukraine stands in solidarity with Black Ukrainians. I know that sounds harsh, but it's true. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is despicable, and anyone with an ounce of humanity should absolutely have sympathy for the families suffering on the battleground. But Black people, the main fight we should be concerned with is the one for our lives that's clearly being fought on an international front. Because for too long, we've been asked to sweep our plight under the rug to stand on the frontlines for someone else's (Tanesha peeples, black ukrainians need support from African diaspora amid signs of racism, March 1, 2022). As war erupts between the two European nations, people living in Ukraine are in a frenzy to escape to neighboring countries. However, reports released over the weekend show African students and other people of color experiencing racism during their attempts to flee.

*"They said if you're black, you should walk"* Nigerian student Jessica has kept in touch with us about her journey out of Ukraine. She is among the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing the country, and one of many Africans in Ukraine who have described facing racism at borders. [pic.twitter.com/OTTx6wxVDY](https://pic.twitter.com/OTTx6wxVDY) (BBC News Africa BBC Africa) March 1, 2022).

It's crazy but not surprising that in all of the chaos, Ukrainians *still* have time to discriminate against melanated people. And one can certainly argue that this is a one-off, highly sensitive situation and the actions of a few people shouldn't reflect the attitude of an entire country. Well, a woman and her eight month old baby were violently thrown off a bus, an American man was stopped by police, profiled as a drug smuggler and called a nigger. Students from Congo were attacked by Ukrainians. These are just a few incidents of racism against Black Ukrainians, all happening before the invasion and all because of skin color. So yep, this is Ukraine. The United States – and other countries – conveniently does this manipulative thing by convincing us to put democracy above all else—including our lives. It's the colonization of our minds and identities. When it comes to standing united to fight other countries that pose a threat to our way of life or that of our allies, we're all one regardless of skin color. But outside of those times, we're Black in a nation/world divided and devoured by racism. We saw this happen during the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War. Black people were drafted as soldiers and became war heroes that fought for our country in hopes that we'd be respected and treated as such. But during those battles and when we returned home, we were still niggers, Negroes and Black people subject to deplorable treatment because of our skin colour. Ultimately, this country intentionally keeps us as far away from our history and culture to preserve what we've known and been told as Americans. With that, we have very little connection to our original homeland, its people or our true identity to even have a united agenda to defend it. Meanwhile, our African brothers and sisters are being brutalized abroad while we're, in part, being asked to stand in solidarity with worldwide systemic oppression. So as it pertains to the racism against Black Ukrainians and African people anywhere else in the world, we have a responsibility to advocate for and stand in solidarity with them first. Because when this is all said and done, Black skin will still be under attack regardless of nationality. And while I understand Ukraine is going through it right now, there's still space, opportunity and empathy for the country to support *all* people trying to escape the madness (Amiah Taylor, March 10, 2022).

Reports of discriminatory and inhumane treatment towards Africans fleeing Ukraine during the Russian invasion have been on the rise on social media, with African students and workers documenting their experiences with anti-Black sentiment and physical and verbal attacks on Twitter with the hash tag Africans in Ukraine. "People said they were pushed, sent back, and physically assaulted on both sides of the border in Ukraine, Romania, and Poland," said organizer Tokunbo Koiki, as reported by *Black Enterprise*. That's why Black organizers are trying to empower themselves and other members of the African community in Ukraine by coordinating rescue efforts. Koiki, along

with Korrine Sky and Patricia Daley, started a campaign called Black Women for Black Lives, which provides Africans and members of the Black diaspora in Ukraine with updated safe routes for escape as they navigate exiting the country. The organization also disperses funds to Africans who are stranded as a result of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, and has distributed over \$69,000 to over 650 Black people fleeing Ukraine as of March 8, 2022, Koiki and her co-founders are not alone in leading efforts to help African migrants flee Ukraine. The organization Black is Polish is also working to coordinate safe housing for African refugees. Additionally, an international coalition of human rights attorneys and concerned activists have filed a United Nations appeal on behalf of African migrants who are facing racism at the border of Ukraine, as of March 2, 2022 according to *CNN*. Following President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Russia last month, more than two million people have fled Ukraine and sought asylum in neighboring European countries including Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania. While Africans make up more than 20% of Ukraine's international students, they are being met with prejudicial treatment as they attempt to exit the country. Ukrainian authorities are pushing Africans to the back of long lines and barring them from boarding outbound trains to neighboring countries, according to the African Studies Association (Afro-Ukrainians – Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afr...>).

Even animals are allegedly being given priority over African students and migrants. One Nigerian medical student claimed that she was not allowed to board several evacuation buses due to racial discrimination, but people carrying animals in carriers were allowed entry, according to (*The Voice*), a African-Caribbean weekly newspaper in Britain. But the dehumanized treatment of African students and immigrants does not end if they reach border lines to neighboring countries. Non-white refugees are facing verbal harassment from extremist groups patrolling the borders of neighboring countries and being held back at various border crossings due to race. For example, after days of walking in inclement weather, three Congolese students were beaten by Polish border guards and repeatedly sent to the back of the line at the Poland border in Ukraine, before eventually being allowed to enter the country, according to (*The Independent*). "Immigration guards, both male and female, called us names like n\*gger and Black slut; they referred to my brother as a monkey," one 24 year old student named Jeancy said, as reported by (*The Independent*). Jeancy also alleges that she was beaten so "savagely" that her period came on prematurely. Increased reports of brutal incidents involving violence against minority refugees are exposing a double standard on how European countries treat white asylum seekers as opposed to non-white ones. Poland, in particular, has taken in more than 1.2

million refugees, a drastic reversal of their previous stance on immigration.

Hundreds of thousands of people fled Ukraine amid Russia's invasion, some international students said they were mistreated by authorities and that Ukrainians received preferential treatment while traveling on trains and crossing borders (Mauricio Lima for *The New York Times*). Africans who had been living in Ukraine say they were stuck for days at crossings into neighboring European Union countries, huddling in the cold without food or shelter, held up by Ukrainian authorities who pushed them to the ends of long lines and even beat them, while letting Ukrainians through. At least 660,000 people have fled Ukraine in the five days following the start of Russia's invasion, the United Nations refugee agency U.N.H.C.R. said. Most are Ukrainians, but some are students or migrant workers from Africa, Asia and other regions who are also desperate to escape. Chineye Mbagwu, a 24-year-old doctor from Nigeria who lived in the western Ukrainian town of Ivano-Frankovsk, said she had spent more than two days stranded at the Poland-Ukraine border crossing in the town of Medyka, as the guards let Ukrainians cross but blocked foreigners. "The Ukrainian border guards were not letting us through," she said in a phone interview, her voice trembling. "They were beating people up with sticks" and tearing off their jackets, she added. "They would slap them, beat them and push them to the end of the queue. It was awful." The African Union and President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria have condemned the treatment of Africans fleeing Ukraine following social media reports about border guards hindering them from leaving. Africans have also reported being barred from boarding trains headed to the border. "Reports that Africans are singled out for unacceptable dissimilar treatment would be shockingly racist" and violate international law, the African Union said. Ukraine's deputy interior minister, Anton Heraschenko, denied that his country was obstructing foreigners from leaving. "Everything is simple," he said. "We are first to release women and children. Foreign men must wait for women and children to come forward. We will release all foreigners without hindrance," he added, in a written response to questions. "Same goes for blacks." Monika Pronczuk and Ruth Maclean, Africans say Ukrainian Authorities Hindered them From Fleeing, March 1, 2022 (Afro-Ukrainians – Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afr...>).

Martin Mpofo, mentioned a student from Zimbabwe living in Ukraine, is helped to walk by his brother, Maneedi, right, and Hatim Redouani, 27, from Morocco, as they take the pedestrian border crossing into the small Polish town of Medyka (Mauricio Lima for *The New York Times*), Ms. Mbagwu, the Nigerian doctor, managed to reach Warsaw, but said she crossed the border only by struggling and pushing her way

through. "They would say 'only women and children can pass through,'" she said. "But they were letting some Ukrainian men through. And whenever a Black lady would try to pass, they said: 'our women first,'" Ms. Mbagwu added. "There was no shelter from the cold. It snowed. There was no food, water, or a place to rest. I was literally hallucinating from sleep deprivation," she said. She said her 21-year-old brother, a medical student, had been blocked at the border since Friday, but made it into Poland after four days of trying. Not all foreigners reported ill treatment by Ukrainian authorities at the border crossings. A Pakistani student and an Afghan national who crossed from Ukraine into Poland on Saturday said the only problem was very long lines. And a group of Vietnamese workers crossed easily into Moldova on Monday. Mohammed Saadaoui, a 23-year-old Moroccan pharmacy student who traveled from the Ukrainian city of Odessa to Warsaw, said he did not have any problems. "But we took a long time to find the good border crossing where there would not be too many people," he said. "There, we were treated the same way as the Ukrainians." The International Organization of Migration estimated that there are more than 470,000 foreign nationals in Ukraine, including a large number of overseas students and migrant workers. At least 6,000 of them have arrived in Moldova and Slovakia alone over the past five days, according to the I.O.M., and many more have crossed into Poland. Many of the foreigners fleeing Ukraine said they were warmly welcomed in neighboring Poland, Moldova, Hungary and Romania. But Mr. Buhari, the Nigerian president, said there were reports of Polish officials refusing Nigerians entry (Mauricio Lima for *The New York Times*). Piotr Mueller, the spokesman for the Polish prime minister, denied this, saying, "Poland is letting in everyone coming from Ukraine regardless of their nationality." Piotr Bystrianin, head of the Ocalenie Foundation, a Polish refugee charity, said that so far, "problems were on the Ukrainian side." Mohammed Amin, a pharmacy student in Dnipro, Ukraine, calling his family in Morocco from a makeshift reception center in Przemysl, Poland. Credit...Maciek Nabrdalik for (*The New York Times*). More than 300,000 people have fled from Ukraine to Poland since the Russian invasion began, according to Poland's interior ministry. Makeshift accommodation is being set up across the country, and Poles are helping Ukrainians on a massive scale, transporting them through the border, hosting them in their homes, feeding and clothing them.

### 2.3. List of some Prominent Afro-Ukrainians

1. Zhan Beleniuk - Politician and Ukrainian Olympic Gold Medallist in Greco-Roman wrestling (First Afro-Ukrainian member of the Ukrainian Parliament).
2. Joel Bolomboy - Congolese-Ukrainian-Russian former NBA basketball player from Donetsk.
3. Issuf Sanon - Burkinabé-Ukrainian basketball player from Donetsk.

4. Berta Vázquez - Spanish-Ethiopian-Ukrainian actor, starred in Spanish prison drama *Vis-à-vis* [5].
5. Emmersón - Congolese-Ukrainian football player from Odesa.
6. Colince Ngaha - Ukrainian retired football and manager player from Cameroon.
7. Aderinsola Eseola - Nigerian-Ukrainian football player from Zhytomyr.
8. Aleks Chidomere - Nigerian-Ukrainian football player from Kyiv.
9. Olavale Fabunmi - Nigerian-Ukrainian football player from Kyiv.
10. Mark Mampassi - Congolese-Ukrainian football player from Donetsk.
11. Denys Ndukve - Football player from Kharkiv.
12. Daniel Ehbudzhuo - Football player from Kurylivka (Kharkiv Oblast).
  - Members of Ukrainian band "OON".
  - Members of Ukrainian band "Chornobryvtsi", composed of Afro-Caribbean singers from Uganda and Jamaica (The name of the band meaning *Marigold* in Ukrainian).
13. Gaita-Lurdes Essami Ukrainian singer from Kyiv.

Her name pronounced *Haitana* in Ukrainian and *Gaitana* in Russian.

Afro-Ukrainians in Donetsk Archived 2014-02-21 at the Wayback Machine comments. ua. January 20, 2014

Lessons in Ukrainian. politiko.

In Donetsk dark-skinned asked the bad-mannered Russian to study Ukrainian language. Gazeta in Ukrainian. January 20, 2014.

**Sources:** Black Ukrainians need support from African diaspora amid...

<https://theblackwallsttimes.com> > bla...

#### 2.4. Main University Institutions and Specialisation of Foreign (Black) Diasporas in Ukraine

Over 80 thousand students from 158 countries – «Study in Ukraine» presented statistics on foreign students in UKRAINE. 12.21.2020. Which specialties and universities are the most popular among foreign students, how many invitations for study have been registered, from which countries the most students come to study at Ukrainian universities – all this was discussed during the online presentation of the state enterprise “Ukrainian State Center for International Education” of the Ministry of Science and Education of Ukraine, today, December 21st, 2020. “We are very pleased to note the rapid growth in the number of foreign students since 2011. In 2019, we reached a historic high – 80,470 people. This is the result of our joint work with you. And, I hope, by 2025 we will be able to reach the figure of more than 100 thousand –” said the director of the Center Olena Shapovalova. Most students come from countries like India, Morocco,

Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Nigeria, Turkey, China, Egypt, Israel, and Uzbekistan.

The large number of students from India and Turkmenistan, as Olena Shapovalova explains, is due to the ease of receiving visas. See statistics below.

#### 2.4.1 Universities /Institutions Attended by African Diasporas Students in Ukraine

The most popular higher education institutions among foreign students:

1. Kharkiv National Medical University.
2. V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University.
3. Odesa National Medical University.
4. Bogomolets National Medical University.
5. Zaporizhzhia State Medical University.
6. National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsia.
7. I.Horbachevsky Ternopil State Medical University.
8. State Institution “Dnipropetrovsk Medical Academy of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine”.
9. HSEE of Ukraine “Bukovinian State Medical University”.
10. Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

“What unites these universities is that they have a medical faculty. After all, the most popular specialties among foreign students – which is almost 50% – are medical” – explains Olena Shapovalova, 2022. -Universities reach out to African students who escaped Ukraine <https://www.universityworldnews.com> > ...

15 march 2022 — About 3,500 Egyptian students, nearly 4.6% of the total number of international students in Ukraine, mainly studying medicine and...

#### 2.4.2 Specific Specialisations and Percentages

Among the specialties chosen by foreign students, the most popular ones are medical – almost 50%:

1. Medicine (32, 36%).
2. Medical Practice (7, 72%).
3. Dentistry (6, 33%).
4. Management (4, 36%).
5. Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy (3, 10%).
6. Law (2, 97%).
7. Architecture and Construction (2, 96%).
8. Secondary Education (2, 27%).
9. Finance, Banking and Insurance (1, 95%).
10. Economics (1, 60%).
11. Philology (1, 295%).

The regions that lead in the number of foreign students are Kharkiv, Kyiv, and Odesa, which is due to the most popular educational institutions being located in them. Olena Shapovalova noted the positive growth of the number of invitations for study for foreign



applicants. Thus, since 2015, their number has increased almost 2.5 times – from 19,647 to 47,905.

The number of registered invitations for foreign applicants this year as of December 20th, 2020 is 35,148, which is almost 10 thousand less than last year. Olena Shapovalova stressed that the final data for the whole of 2020 will be published in January 2021, as not all universities have yet entered the data of The Unified State Electronic Database in Education and the electronic journal of «Study in Ukraine».

Sources: Universities reach out to African students who escaped Ukraine <https://www.universityworldnews.com> › ...

15 march 2022 — About 3,500 Egyptian students, nearly 4.6% of the total number of international students in Ukraine, mainly studying medicine and...

#### 2.4.3: Estimated Enrollment of Foreign Students

The leaders among the universities that registered the largest number of invitations as of December 20th, 2020 are:

1. V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University 1667.
2. Kharkiv National Medical University 1255.
3. International European University 1194.
4. Limited Liability Company “Dnipro Medical Institute of Traditional and Nontraditional Medicine” 1107.
5. Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics 1063.
6. National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute” 831.
7. Zaporizhzhia State Medical University 795.
8. State Institution “Dnipropetrovsk Medical Academy of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine” 777.
9. State Higher Education Institution “Uzhhorod National University” 723.
10. Private Higher Education Establishment “Kyiv Medical University” 696.

**Sources:** -Thousands of African students stranded in Ukraine – YouTube,

African students stuck in Ukraine seek refuge or an escape route amid a Russian invasion. #News #Reuters #UkraineCrisis #Ukraine #Russia...

Over 80 thousand students from 158 countries – «STUDY IN UKRAINE» presented statistics on foreign students in UKRAINE. 12.21.2020. Which specialties and universities are the most popular among foreign students, how many invitations for study have been registered, from which countries the most students come to study at Ukrainian universities – all this was discussed during the online presentation of the state enterprise “Ukrainian State Center for International Education” of the Ministry of Science and Education of

Ukraine, on December 21, 2020. “We are very pleased to note the rapid growth in the number of foreign students since 2011. In 2019, we reached a historic high – 80,470 people. This is the result of our joint work with you (Director of the Center Olena Shapovalova). Most students come from countries like India, Morocco, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Nigeria, Turkey, China, Egypt, Israel and Uzbekistan. The large number of students from India and Turkmenistan, as Olena Shapovalova explains, is due to the ease of receiving a visa. Among the specialties chosen by foreign students, the most popular ones are medical almost 50%: “What unites these universities is that they have a medical faculty. After all, the most popular specialties among foreign students – which is almost 50% – are medical” – explains Olena Shapovalova. The regions that lead in the number of foreign students are Kharkiv, Kyiv, and Odesa, which is due to the most popular educational institutions being located in them. Olena Shapovalova noted the positive growth of the number of invitations for study for foreign applicants. Thus, since 2015, their number has increased almost 2.5 times – from 19,647 to 47,905. The number of registered invitations for foreign applicants this year as of December 20th, 2020 is 35,148, which is almost 10 thousand less than last year. Olena Shapovalova stressed that the final data for the whole of 2020 will be published in January 2021, as not all universities have yet entered the data of The Unified State Electronic Database in Education and the electronic journal of «Study in Ukraine» (Director of the Center Olena Shapovalova).

Despite the challenges of this difficult year, we have more than 35,000 registered invitations for study. This means that all of us together – universities, «Study in Ukraine» – have made great efforts and done everything possible to make Ukrainian higher education interesting and accessible to foreign entrants this year” – summed up Olena Shapovalova. We also remind that «Study in Ukraine» has presented the Center’s Development Strategy for 2021-2025. Despite the challenges of this difficult year, we have more than 35,000 registered invitations for study. This means that all of us together – universities, «Study in Ukraine» – have made great efforts and done everything possible to make Ukrainian higher education interesting and accessible to foreign entrants this year” – summed up Olena Shapovalova. We also remind that «Study in Ukraine» has presented the Center’s Development Strategy for 2021-2025. About 4,000 Nigerians are currently studying in Ukraine. A number of them took to social media to share their frustration about the lack of information from the Nigerian government. “President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria has already told his citizens in the Ukraine to help them,” Ron Peters wrote on DW Africa’s Facebook page. “It would have surprised many if he had offered help.” On Thursday afternoon, Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister Geoffrey Onyeama said in a video released on Twitter

that once airports reopened his government would assist with the evacuation of people who wanted to leave. Morocco, Egypt acted early concerning their foreign student's situation in Ukraine. While Nigerians make up the second biggest group of foreign students in Ukraine. The biggest group is from Morocco with 8,000 students, while Egyptians are in third place with 3,500 students. Nigerians point to the differing approaches of Morocco and Egypt in the lead up to the Russian invasion. Two weeks ago, Morocco's government called on citizens to leave Ukraine as soon as possible, while the head of the Egyptian community in Ukraine, Ali Farouk, said last week that authorities in Ukraine and the Egyptian embassy were coordinating the return of Egyptian students. No way of leaving Ukraine Africans make up more than 20% of Ukraine's international students, studying in many different towns and cities throughout the country. Many are attracted by the country's good technical and medical schools combined with relatively low fees (Thousands of African students are stuck in Ukraine | Africa | DW <https://www.dw.com › thousands-of-...>

24 February 2022). These students are also expressing their fear for their safety as explosions were heard in several parts of the country, including Kyiv, the second-largest city, Kharkiv, and the Black Sea port of Odesa on Thursday. We are very worried about our safety and will like to ask for assistance as regards evacuation from Ukraine to a safer place until the situation here in Ukraine is calm," Liberian Augustine Akoi Kollie, a fifth-year medical student based in Ternopil, in western Ukraine, wrote in a social media message to DW. "Please help us," Kollie wrote. Though Zimbabwe has said it was prepared to fly its citizens out of Ukraine, Zimbabwean student Mellisa Charuvira told DW that the offer didn't help in the current situation because there was no way to leave Ukraine at the moment. "There is no transportation — there are no buses from Kyiv to other cities," she said in tears. Zimbabwe doesn't have an embassy in Ukraine. Its closest diplomatic representation is in the German capital, Berlin. "We have called the ambassador of Zimbabwe in Berlin, and she said she is organizing something. Right now we don't have any protection. We can't get out through any border. My appeal is to evacuate us," Charuvira said. 'Stay indoors'. The Nigerian Embassy in Kyiv on Thursday advised Nigerian nationals living in Ukraine to "remain calm but be very vigilant and be responsible for their personal security and safety." Richard, a Nigerian living in Kyiv who asked that his full name not be used, told DW that he is trying to follow that advice. He said he could see people packing their belongings into cars and fleeing their homes. Richard said many people hoped to head west, away from the border with Russia, in an attempt to reach safety on the Polish border. But he doesn't want to follow their example. "I will stay indoors," he said. "The roads are unsafe. My advice is to stay home. It's not good to make decisions when you

are in a panic mode," he said. He wouldn't even venture out to buy necessities, he said, as the "queues in front of shops and pharmacies are endless (Tobore Ovuorie, Josephone Mahachi and Shola Lawal, Kate Hairsine).

African students have been among those seen crossing into Poland from Ukraine. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused a mass exodus of civilians, including thousands of international students from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Ukraine was home to over 76,000 foreign students, according to government data from 2020. Nearly a quarter of the students were from Africa, with the largest numbers coming from Nigeria, Morocco and Egypt. India easily accounts for the highest portion with over 20,000 students. The students - studying medicine, engineering and business - are an important part of the country's economy. But, as Russia launches the biggest European invasion since the Second World War, thousands of them have fled, hundreds are still trapped, and many remain uncertain about the fate of their education (<https://www.youtube.com › watch>). What was the attraction of Ukraine? Ukraine has long appealed to foreign students, which can be traced back to the Soviet era, when there was a lot of investment in higher education and a deliberate attempt to attract students from newly independent African countries. Now, Ukrainian universities are seen as a gateway to the European job market, offering affordable course prices, straightforward visa terms and the possibility of permanent residency. "Ukrainian degrees are widely recognised and offer a high standard of education," said Patrick Esugunum, who works for an organisation that assists West African students wanting to study in Ukraine. "A lot of medical students, in particular, want to go there as they have a good standard for medical facilities," he added. Desmond Chinaza Muokwudo, a Nigerian student who had been based in the city of Dnipro, said he was attracted by the relaxed admission requirements and the cheap cost of living compared to other European cities. He enrolled at the University of Customs and Finance less than three months ago. Many courses are offered in English, but the 30-year-old was undertaking a preliminary of Ukrainian language course before moving on to study international relations. "I was a welder back in Nigeria and I needed an education to accomplish things," he told the BBC from a hostel in Poland after fleeing the conflict. Hungary and Ghana have announced that some students who had fled Ukraine will be allowed to complete their studies in Hungarian universities. They will provide space and resources and the students will pay the same fees as in Ukraine. But it is not clear how many of the African and Asian students will be covered by this deal (African students who are stranded in Ukraine plead for help to ..., <https://www.youtube.com › watch>).

### 3. Situation of Food Crisis Traps in the Face of Highly Dependency Countries and Imminent Future Socio-Political Chaos if Not Rapidly Adjusted with National and Local Production Initiatives in Africa

#### 3.1 Specific Signals and Radical Incidences of Exaggerated Shortages and Market Prices of Goods and Services as stepping stones towards Civil Wars

Reduced agricultural production and blockades in the Black Sea Region coupled with trade restriction policies affecting flows of essential goods such as grains and sunflower-seed oil, led to a reduced availability of staples and a sharp increase in global grain prices in May 2022 of 48.6 percent for wheat, 28.7 percent for maize and 9.3 percent for rice, as compared to pre-war January 2022 prices with implications on local market prices across East Africa. As of May 2022, commodities recording the highest year-on-year (y-o-y) increase are vegetable oils (up 45.9 percent compared to April 2021), cereals (up 36.6 percent), and beans (up 14.1 percent). The rise in fuel and food prices pushed up inflation rate across East Africa countries, implying households – especially the poorest ones – have fewer resources to spend on essential food and non-food needs. In May 2022, headline inflation stood at over 37 percent in Ethiopia (from 34.5 in January 2022); at 10.5 percent in Rwanda (from 1.3 percent in the same period) and at 6.3 percent in Uganda (from 2.7 percent in January 2022). (Ukraine/Russia: As War Continues, Africa Food Crisis Looms <https://reliefweb.int> › report › world). In May 2022, the average monthly price of the local food basket reached USD 17 per capita across the Eastern African countries – representing an increase of 51.1 percent from the same period last year (USD 12.2) and 18.4 percent from pre-war prices (USD 15.1 in January 2022). South Sudan, Somalia and Rwanda recording the highest percentage increase between January and May 2022. A correlation can be noted between international crude oil and global food prices. The results indicate the spillover of crude oil prices into essential food products. When the prices of crude oil peaked in March 2022, also the global prices of food, particularly vegetable oil and cereals registered a record high during the same period. The higher cost of energy most likely raised the cost of food production and agricultural activity (manufacturing, processing, and packaging) and transportation in the short term (Averting an African food crisis in the wake of the Ukraine war <https://www.weforum.org> › 2022/05).

Global fertilizer prices have risen by nearly 30 percent since the start of 2022 because of surging input costs; supply disruptions caused by sanctions (Belarus and Russia), and export restrictions. As a result, the share of fertilizers imported into the region reduced, which also coincided with the peak March- April-May main planting season. WFP estimates that cereal production during the 2022 cropping year could potentially decrease by 16 percent (y-o-y) because high

fertilizer and fuel prices. The RAM teams are currently expanding the analysis of the impacts of reduced fertilizer imports on the region over the longer term. As of June 2022, countries seeing the sharpest reduction in fertilizer imports were Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Kenya (Implications of Ukraine Conflict on Food Access and Availability in the East Africa Region, Update, 3, June 2022). The food security crisis in the Sahel is expected to be a protracted one. The war in Ukraine is expected to further exacerbate the situation by increasing global food prices, thereby driving an additional 7 to 10 million people in West Africa into a situation of food insecurity. This poses an exceptional challenge for countries that are already fiscally stressed and heavily indebted. To prevent the recurrence of food insecurity episodes, it is imperative to invest in resilience. Further short-term relief and medium-term measures are planned, including cash and food transfers, nutritionally balanced rations through food distribution programs, as well as investments in the next season's production. However, in the long-term, the Bank will help the Sahelian countries address the underlying causes of food and nutritional insecurity in the Sahel by taking a broader food-system approach. Key elements include generating jobs and raising incomes in food systems; building effective early warning systems and capacity for prevention of crop and livestock pests and diseases; and improving agricultural markets and natural resource management. Nearly 2 million people in the Sahel have benefitted from the World Bank financing that provided emergency relief to support food and humanitarian assistance, as well as to promote investments in the next season's production, thus ensuring a post-shock recovery (FAO FEWS NET. [https://www.food-security.net/en/ressources/Results Briefs May 10, 2022](https://www.food-security.net/en/ressources/Results%20Briefs%20May%202022)).

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is further disrupting a global and liberalized food system that was already undermined by Covid-19 and the unfolding climate crisis. As always, when conflict and hunger go hand in hand, the World's most marginalised and excluded pay the highest price. Investing in climate-resilient food Systems with key involvement of smallholder farming is one of the answers to address their plight (The World Bank Group, 2022). "The Ukraine crisis shows how imperatively we have to transform our global food system to a system that provides good food for all. Currently, we are producing enough to feed the world, yet leave millions on the brink of famine", says Bram Peters, food system advisor at Cordaid. In fact, half of Africa's wheat import comes from Russia and Ukraine. Together, Russia and Ukraine produce 30% of the world's volume of wheat. As they are the cheapest on the market, a lot of it goes to low-income and food-deficit countries. In fact, half of Africa's wheat import comes from Russia and Ukraine. By March 22, global wheat prices had already gone up by 19% due to the war in Ukraine. before the Russia Ukraine conflict, food systems and

supply chains across the globe were still in tatters after two years of Covid-19 and severe climate change crises. Five weeks into the Ukraine war, disruptions are more severe and food prices are even surpassing levels we saw after the 2008 global financial crisis. “Global food production has indeed become more difficult. But production is not the biggest issue. There is enough food”, says Peters. “The biggest issue is pricing and access. Food commodities and farming inputs have become too expensive. Farmers face difficulties to farm and poorer consumers can no longer afford nutritious food, especially in low-income countries and food-insecure countries.” “When food stocks will be depleted, food speculation will have caused more damage, shipments will have become even more expensive, and fertilizers totally unaffordable, that’s when the food crisis will hit us in the stomach.” Shyaka Revocatus, Cordaid value chain advisor in Rwanda. Even before the Ukraine crisis, FAO estimated that 45 million people lived on the brink of famine. And in 2020, when COVID only started to kick in, up to 811 million people did not have access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food. The major producers, suppliers, and traders of our global food system don’t really seem to care about them. Russia and Ukraine are not only the world’s biggest producers of wheat, barley, and sunflower, they were also the cheapest exporters on the market. This made them very attractive to low-income countries. Their supply is now hampered. Meanwhile, food, oil, and shipping prices keep on rising. And droughts in for example Ethiopia and Somalia continue to interfere with farming cycles. “Instead of moving to Zero Hunger there’s only more hunger”, Peters points out.

### **3.2. Possibilities for the Way Forward in Highly Dependency Countries For Control Before Popular Action and Not Actions Before Control in Africa**

To that effect, as the way forward to survive the local population of any country to be sustainable presently and in future, the promotion of local substitutes products and consumer goods in the short run is the best answer and not to be staying waiting that the Russo-Ukrainian war should halt or come to an end for easy importation and exportation of goods and services. What if it pro-long like to a decade as it started since 2014 before final escalation in 2022? The earlier the better for Africans and other part of the World which focuses on Ukraine and Russian previous advantages as it is a total complicated war which nobody can determined its future since the Russian leaders are so far looking for global prominence once more since the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and the radical disintegration of USSR something and an event Putin, then military service man could not belief till the present 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The event of the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century since 1991 should be of great concerns of those still strongly having the diplomacy of dependent and dependency in terms of

political economic relations of the North –South and Soth-South relations since the down of the Cold War.

The same war that now confronts Europe with its energy dependency on Russia pushes low-income parts of the globe further down the global hunger index. Take Rwanda, a country that has successfully battled hunger in the past 20 years, with hunger levels that are still ‘serious’ but no longer ‘alarming’. “64% of wheat and 14% of fertilizers in Rwanda come from Russia”, says Shyaka Revocatus, a Cordaid value chain advisor based in Rwanda. “Wheat is a critical product, used by everyone. And we can’t produce it at scale ourselves, being a small and mountainous country. Our soil is too acidic, and we lack arable land surface. We already see that wheat, but also cooking oil and fertilizers are harder to get by. In the past weeks prices of these commodities have increased significantly. That’s why the government is now promoting locally produced substitutes for wheat, like cassava and sweet potatoes. These are our traditional food stocks. But people have grown used to the taste of bread made of imported wheat”, he continues. Organic farming and short-term needs. Rwanda also feels the burn of how heavily it depended on Russian fertilizers. “The worrying thing is that we don’t have one local fertilizer production plant. Sourcing our fertilizers from new suppliers could come with prices that are simply not affordable to most farmers”, Revocatus states. And relying too heavily on organic fertilizers and local smallholder farming does not solve the acute food crisis in the short term. “It doesn’t yield enough on a national scale. You can focus on organic farming only once you have enough to feed the hungry in your country”, according to Revocatus. Rwanda faces soaring food prices amid Ukrain crisis [https://www.africanews.com › rwand...;](https://www.africanews.com › rwand...) Rwanda : Paul Kagame promises Rwandans food self ... [https://www.afro-impact.com › rwan...;](https://www.afro-impact.com › rwan...) President Kagame speaks out on Russia - Ukraine's war, <https://www.youtube.com › watch;>

Interactive interview with Rwanda Broadcasting Agency | Kigali, 04 July 2022. Paul Kagame. Paul Kagame.

A good example was taking by Senegal by increasing its agriculture budget due to the Ukraine crisis. In Senegal, West Africa, the Russia Ukraine war has kick-started similar dynamics. “Prices are exploding. Most importantly the price of bread will be impacted”, says Idrissa Ba, Cordaid’s country lead in Senegal. “Senegal annually imports up to 650 thousand tons of wheat, partly from Russian and Ukrainian grain. To address grain and input shortages the government promotes the production and processing of local varieties like maize, millet, and cow bean. The Senegalese government has just increased the agriculture budget by 10 billion CFA to cope with the Ukraine-related food crisis. Cordaid, as part of its wider support for local smallholder farming, is also supporting

farmers and bakers in the whole of Senegal, to boost bread made of local varieties of cowpea beans. The taste is different, but you get used to it”, Ba says. “The biggest barriers of smallholder farmers are lack of power in supply chains and market access, lack of capital and means to diversify their crops, and lack of rural-urban connectivity.” Bram Peters, 2022). In Senegal, skyrocketing petrol prices are just as troublesome as supply chain disruptions. “For farmers and others in the local food industry, they are killing”, he adds. Whatever the outcome of the current Ukraine-Russia negotiations, the conflict has already jeopardised the June and possibly the winter 2022/23 harvesting seasons in the world’s grain barn. It will ripple through food systems for years to come. Food insecure nations are bracing for the future. “So far, we feel the impact, but were not suffering yet because of Ukraine. In five months, with prices going up further, that will change”, Ba predicts for Senegal. He is echoed by Revocatus in Rwanda: “When food stocks will be depleted, food speculation will have caused more damage, shipments will have become even more expensive, and fertilizers totally unaffordable, that’s when the food crisis will hit us in the stomach” (STARS/Cordaid, 2022). Overall, in the longer term, we must make our food system more sustainable and more inclusive. More sustainable means more ecological and climate-friendly. More inclusive means smaller producers, like smallholder farmers all over the world, need to be protected, need to have a bigger say, and need more access to investment capital and to markets. In many ways, smallholder farmers feed communities and keep markets alive in the most food-insecure places of Africa and Asia. Investing in them, will push regional and domestic agri-food markets and increase food sovereignty.” According to Hakizamungu Theophile, Nkuriyimana Theoneste, and Hagenimana Jean Baptiste who are Rwandan rice producers who were supported by Cordaid to improve the quality of processed rice and to gain better market access (STARS/ Cordaid, 2022). Without being exhaustive, here are Peters’ top Zero Hunger priorities. “To keep people from starving we must do more to fund the World Food Programme that’s the short term.

Nevertheless, The Ukrainian war is a big lesson to Africans and the rest of the World as stipulated by one analyst *Idrissa Ba in Senegal*: *Let the war in Ukraine stop as soon as possible”, “In the first place for the sake of the Ukrainians. But let this war also be a wake-up call for us in Senegal and so many other places. To develop and strengthen our own markets and invest more in our farmers and our food sovereignty.” “And to firmly stay connected, on more equal terms, to international trade. Because no one is an island and nothing is more critical than food. Whether it’s wheat bread, maize bread, millet bread, or cowpea bread”, adds Shyaka Revocatus in Rwanda (Frank van Lierde).*

Several countries in Africa rely on imported grains like wheat to meet the food needs of growing populations. The WFP and other organizations measure the extent to which countries rely on imported goods by calculating the share of a country’s supply of commodities that came from imports, referred to as Import Dependency Ratios. Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, and Tanzania have wheat ratios above 90, indicating that almost all their wheat supply came from imports, with the rest from local production. In 2019, the share of the supply from the Black Sea region ranged from 30 percent in Nigeria and Uganda, to 60 percent in Tanzania. The war between Russia and Ukraine revealed that global food and energy markets are highly concentrated. US Department of Agriculture (USDA) data suggest that for wheat, seven countries provide 86 percent of supplies to the global market, while three countries hold 68 percent of the world’s wheat reserves. For maize, just four countries account for 85 percent of export supplies while two countries hold 82 percent of the world’s maize reserves (Human Rights Watch, USA, 2022).

The British prime minister on Friday announced over £370 million (\$454 million) for global food security this year and deplored the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on global food supplies. According to Boris Johnson, British Prime Minister in Kigali, Rwanda Commonwealth Summit 2022 stated that: *“One of the greatest affronts to everything we stand for, including good governance and rule of law, is Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and Putin’s blockage of ports that would otherwise be shipping food for the world’s poorest people,” Boris Johnson said at the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Rwanda’s capital Kigali. “We will invest over £370 million in global food security this year, including £130 million to the World Food Program. We want to work alongside our Commonwealth friends to understand your priorities and to deliver joint solutions,” he said. Johnson also urged the Commonwealth countries to enroll girls in school and empower them to play their part in the economy when they leave school. “If I could imagine the silver bullet that will solve an array of problems and transform countless lives it will be to give every girl in the world the chance to go to school,” he said.*

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is welcomed by Francis Gatere, Rwanda’s presidential advisor on economic affairs, followed by High Commissioner for Canada in the Republic of Rwanda Christopher Thornley, upon arriving in Kigali to attend the Commonwealth Summit on Wednesday (Paul Chiasson/the Canadian Press). The war in Ukraine will cast its shadow over Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other Commonwealth national leaders as they arrive in Rwanda, on Wednesday for their first meeting since the onset of the pandemic. Trudeau touched down in Kigali late in the day as events and forums surrounding the

meeting, including sessions on gender equality and the economic leadership of women, began in the heavily guarded capital. Food security — particularly in Africa — is expected to be a major topic of the leaders' conference. So is the fact that multiple major countries abstained from a resolution condemning Russia's invasion of its Eastern European neighbour at the United Nations earlier this year. In an interview with CBC Radio's *The House*, Trudeau said the challenge facing Ukraine's allies is to engage "in a very, very real and sustained way" with leaders who are skeptical of sanctions to make them "understand that Russia is trying to destabilize the world and set democracy and the rule of law back by decades. "It's important for everyone, not just European countries, that we be standing up to that attempt to redraw the world order," he added. 'Everything was burned': Kharkiv residents emerge from life underground to find a city in ruins. Canada spending almost \$5B to upgrade continental defence, Anand says. Russian blockade of Ukrainian wheat may compound global food insecurity, UN crisis co-ordinator says. Ten Commonwealth members — Bangladesh, India, Mozambique, Namibia, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe — formally abstained from a UN vote last March which condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. While not legally binding, resolutions of the UN General Assembly carry political weight. Trudeau said there's an argument to be made to convince India and South Africa — which he said "pride themselves very much on principles of democracy, principles of territorial integrity, of sovereignty, of a people being able to determine their own future" — to push back against Russia's war on Ukraine (Murray Brewster, CBC News, June 22, 2022). It remains to be seen how effective those arguments will be. India, for one, has been buying discounted Russian oil and coal at an increasing rate. India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil and over 80 per cent of it is imported. Moscow was not a major supplier of oil to India before the invasion. In January and February of this year, India did not import any crude from Russia at all. Today, Russia is India's second-largest source of oil. The Commonwealth meeting, Trudeau said, will be an opportunity to remind countries that "they don't have to make nice with Russia" and to underline the fact that Moscow is the "instigator of all this instability" around the world, particularly regarding food security. Canada will further attempt to hammer home that message by increasing its diplomatic presence, upgrading the mission in Rwanda to a full embassy with a high commissioner. Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly described Rwanda as "strategic" within Africa and said it has demonstrated a leadership role on the continent. "Yes, we know Russia is present on the continent," she said. "Yes, we know China is also increasingly present on the continent. So, we can't be naive. We need to make sure we have our diplomats on the ground, with their eyes and ears, listening to what's going on." Ukraine and (to a lesser

extent) Russia are among the biggest suppliers of grain to Africa, where food prices are now soaring. A Ukrainian serviceman walks past burning grain from a silo shelled by Russian forces in Ukraine's Donetsk region on May 31, 2022 (Serhii Nuzhnenko/Reuters). Russia has tried to blame western sanctions for those price spikes. Trudeau pointed out that the sanctions on Russia do not affect shipments of food and grain. Much of Ukraine's grain for export is still stuck in the country because its ports have been sealed off by a Russian naval blockade (Murray Brewster, CBC News, and June 22, 2022).

Rwanda is enlisted among the African countries that have been facing soaring food prices due to the conflict between Russia and Ukrain. Data also showed that Russian wheat accounted for 64 percent of Rwanda's total wheat imports. Teddy Kaberuka, economic analyst, the root cause of the Ukraine crisis lies in the U.S. selfish gains to stir up trouble in regional security and stability. He called for dialog to deal with the issue and minimize the impact on global supply of commodities. "The Ukrainian war was a big shock on the international market for different commodities. We saw it in the last maybe five weeks where the price has gone very incremental." "It's not a secret. The USA has so many foreign military bases. They have so many in Africa, they have in Asia, and they have in Europe. So they're expanding their power too close to Russia. It gives them (NATO) their capabilities to be closer to their enemy, 'political enemy'. And I don't think Russia will feel secure if there're competitors next to their door. The ideal situation would be to bring the conflicting countries on to the negotiating table, discuss and find a compromise and then not affect the global supply of commodities. "In 2020, the country spent over 44 million U.S. dollars in importing 177,740 tonnes of wheat, up from 159,350 tonnes in 2019, according to data released by the country's Ministry of Trade and Industry (Minicom). The heavy reliance on wheat imports has forced the landlocked small country to look for an alternative importer, said Rwandan Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente in mid-March. According to an industry insider, the hostilities between Russia and Ukraine have an "incremental" impact on Rwanda's food imports. (Rédaction Africanews, April 7, 2022).

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Ahunna Eziakonwa says inflation and trade disruption have put countries in a "very precarious situation." Russia's war in Ukraine has disrupted Africa's promising recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by raising food and fuel prices, disrupting trade of goods and services, tightening the fiscal space, constraining green transitions and reducing the flow of development finance in the continent, said United Nations Assistant Secretary- General Ahunna Eziakonwa (Ashish Kumar Sen, Wednesday, June 15, 2022).

Speaking at the U.S. Institute of Peace on June 14, Eziakonwa, who serves as the U.N. Development Programme's assistant administrator and regional director for Africa, said the war has put households, communities and countries across Africa in a "very precarious situation." Joseph Sany, vice president of the Africa Center at USIP, said: "The critical question before us today is: How can African countries and their partners leverage their abundant resources and human capabilities to address the short-term impact of Russia's invasion in Ukraine and advance their long-term development and security needs?" "In other words," he added, "how can Africa make the best out of this very, very bad situation?" (Tom Saater/The New York Times). While the level of trade between the African continent as a whole and Russia and Ukraine is insignificant, some African countries rely heavily on these two countries for critical imports, particularly wheat, fertilizers and steel. A disruption in these imports could adversely impact African countries

African countries' reservations on condemning Russia's invasion to Ukraine can be explored through growing Russian ties with African leaders. Those who did condemn also called out Western double standards on international law (Ebenezer Obadare, March 3, 2022) Russian President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in the 2019 Russia-Africa Summit at Sochi, Russia, on October 24, 2019 (Sergei Chirikov/Pool via Reuters). Russia appears to have tapped into ascendant anti-Western current in Africa and elsewhere that predates the Ukrainian conflict. As flagged above, this partly derives from resentment emanating from perceived Western double standard regarding international norms; it is also arguably of a piece with the prevailing intellectual paradigm whose argumentative centerpiece is "decolonization." In corners of the African academy, if not among a cross section of the intelligentsia, sympathy subsists for a country that—in its previous Soviet incarnation—backed African "liberation" movements and provided a countervailing balance to American hegemony Russian courtship of African leaders has quietly intensified in the past few years. While Chinese diplomatic and economic presence in Africa has garnered the most attention, Russia has been steadily providing broad military and intelligence support for African countries. A recent study by three Russian scholars concluded that bilateral relations with Egypt, Algeria and Morocco "have increased at both political and economic levels recently." In other parts of the continent, Russia has signed military cooperation agreements with various countries, while Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group have been reportedly involved in conflicts in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Mali respectively. An elite squad from the Wagner Group currently makes up CAR President Faustin-Archange Touadera's personal security detail. The first of its kind Russia-Africa Economic Forum in Sochi in 2019 was attended by

forty-seven African heads of state (Ebenezer Obadare, March 3, 2022). The war in Ukraine has disturbed Europe's stability and has sent shock waves throughout the international system. However, the "unprecedented and mounting common challenges" referenced in the Joint Vision have only intensified with the new conflict. For both Europe and Africa, a strengthened relationship is more imperative than ever. On February 18, leaders of the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) convened in Brussels to announce a "renewed partnership" and a Joint Vision for 2030. Six days later, Russia's invasion of Ukraine upended such long-term planning for Europe and most of the world New EU sanctions banning oil imports from Russia will likely exacerbate Europe's fuel scarcity, especially in the short run. The United States is exporting large volumes of oil and gas across the Atlantic Ocean. However, Europe also has alternative suppliers in Africa that it could tap. Many countries, from East to Western Africa, have already been grappling with soaring international food, fuel, and fertilizer prices. As the war in Ukraine and economic sanctions on Russia are stifling food production and trade, shortages are increasing, and prices are going up further, also because of food speculation. "Food production is not the biggest issue. There is enough food. The biggest issue is pricing and access." (Bram Peters, food systems expert in 2022). He further stated as follows: "The world was already seriously underinvesting in the Zero Hunger agenda of SDG2. The crisis in Ukraine is only increasing the gap", says Bram Peters, food system advisor with Cordaid. As harvesting crops during conflict is highly uncertain (the next wheat harvest is due in June/July), FAO expects that these shortfalls will continue to disturb global markets in the coming years".

## CONCLUSION

Nevertheless, the main essential issues which caught our attention in this trapping Russo-Ukrainian war of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century requires diverse preventive measures not to further generate into another global war. It is true that the Russian have bounced back to Africa in the last decade with much targeted objectives to pursue in her foreign policy agenda of using any means and opportunity to regain her global prominence after the blunders of Mikhail Gorbachev twenty years ago by betraying USSR. The installation of strategic nuclear plants in the African Continent especially in Southern Africa is too dangerous and that part of the Continent could save as naval bases for the Russian attempted World provocation whose blink of the Third World War may be inviting different actors towards an effective test of stockpiling of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the use of SATAN II indiscriminately to make the rest of the uncompetitive actors pay allegiance to Russia once more in international affairs. In 2008 South Africa was ranked second after Ghana among all African countries in terms of products exported to Ukraine. In that year, trade between the two countries had grown 5.4 times

to 375.1 million U.S. dollars. By 2021 South Africa exported valued 28.98 million U.S dollars while import stood at US\$ 48.67 million) worth of goods to and from Ukraine (*"Trade Balance Graph for 2014 – 2022"*). In 2021, Ukraine was the largest single source of food for the UN World Food Programme. Russia and Ukraine are also major global producers and cheap suppliers of fertilizers and other staple food commodities like maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds, and oil. In short, the world, and specifically the more food insecure part of the world, is highly dependent on two currently warring countries to meet consumption needs. And, even more alarmingly, to address humanitarian needs. In 2021, Ukraine was the largest single source of food for the UN World Food Programme. Before going into some of the Ukraine-related consequences, Peters explains how the complexity of today's global food system is also its Achilles' heel. "Global food supply chains have become increasingly complex in the decades following World War 2. Food markets are highly integrated with and dependent on other systems like food trading, transport, logistics, and stock markets. And because the agroindustry heavily relies on fossil fuels and on oil prices, any crisis in any of these systems has a knock-on effect. When key players in key markets are in trouble, like we now see with the Ukraine crisis, the effect is even more devastating." Russia's invasion of Ukraine has worsened the food security crisis in many African countries (Nairobi, Human Rights Watch, 2022). Many countries in East, West, Middle, and Southern Africa rely on Russia and Ukraine for a significant percentage of their wheat, fertilizer, or vegetable oils imports, but the war disrupts global commodity markets and trade flows to Africa, increasing already high food prices in the region. Even countries that import little from the two countries are indirectly impacted by higher world prices for key commodities. Governments and donors should ensure affordable food access in Africa by scaling up economic and emergency assistance and social protection efforts. Otherwise, millions of people across the African continent may experience hunger. "Many countries in Africa were already in a food crisis," said Lena Simet, senior researcher on poverty and inequality at Human Rights Watch. "Rising prices are compounding the plight of millions of people thrown into poverty by the Covid-19 pandemic, requiring urgent action by governments and the international community." (UN OCHA, Ukraine/Russia, April 28; 2022). Before the war in Ukraine, countries in East, West, Middle, and Southern Africa, including Angola, Cameroon, Kenya, and Nigeria, were already grappling with soaring food prices due to extreme climate and weather events such as floods, landslides, and droughts, and the Covid-19 pandemic, which disrupted production efforts and global supply chains. Since Russia's invasion, global food prices have reached new heights. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Price Index, a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food

commodities, increased 12.6 percent from February to March. The March index is the highest it has been since the measure was created in the 1990s. Russia and Ukraine are among the top five global exporters of barley, sunflowers, and maize, and account for about a third of the world's wheat exports. Nigeria, the world's fourth largest wheat importer, receives a fourth of its imports from Russia and Ukraine. Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda, and Sudan source more than 40 percent of their wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) buys half of the wheat it distributes around the world from Ukraine. With the war, supplies are squeezed, and prices rise, including for fuel, increasing the cost for transporting food in and to the region (UN OCHA, April 28, 2022). On April 12, 2022, Oxfam International warned that over a quarter of a billion more people could experience extreme poverty in 2022 because of Covid-19, rising global inequality, and the shock of food price rises supercharged by the war in Ukraine. On April 13, the heads of WTO, World Bank, IMF, and WFP, warned that "The fallout of the war in Ukraine is adding to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic that now enters its third year, while climate change and increased fragility and conflict pose persistent harm to people around the globe. Sharply higher prices for staples and supply shortages are increasing pressure on households worldwide and pushing millions more into poverty. The threat is highest for the poorest countries with a large share of consumption from food imports...." On April 24, the African Development Bank Group President Dr. Akinwumi Adesina warned the rising costs of fertilizer, energy, and food could further worsen food access in Africa in the coming months (UN OCHA, April 28, 2022).

The war in Ukraine is a "clear and present danger to multilateralism," Eziakonwa said. Indication of this can be found in the fact that development projects are being postponed or canceled as some development partners are put off by the higher costs of projects while others are considering diverting funds to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Europe. There are also signs of Africa's development being defunded. "It's not the time to leave the continent behind," Eziakonwa said, adding that there needs to be a greater understanding that the relationship with Africa is a "partnership of purpose" and "not a relationship of charity." "Describing a turn toward a political lens through which to view development in Africa as a worrying trend, Eziakonwa said: "An unwelcome tendency towards unilateralism and a return to Cold War dynamics would be devastating for Africa, and indeed for the world." She added: "A Cold War redux will certainly exacerbate the recent retreat of democratization in parts of the continent where we have witnessed disruptive and unconstitutional political transitions." It will also be discouraging for countries that "are trying to do the right thing," she said, while calling for an investment in "robust and meaningful



multilateralism.” She also suggested derisking Africa’s investment ecosystem and proactively exploring the use of innovative financing mechanisms. Africa’s extensive fossil fuel reserves and proximity to Europe could allow it to help EU states wean themselves off Russian energy, and governments are wasting no time fortifying relations with key suppliers. Italian officials have already secured new deals with Algeria, Egypt, Angola, and the Republic of Congo to replace nearly two-thirds of the country’s Russian gas supply, while German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited Dakar in May to discuss the development of natural gas projects off the coast of Senegal. But these resources cannot be taken at the expense of Africans’ critical needs for development. That is why in the name of mutual and shared benefits; Europe must consider the advantages of financing African fossil fuel projects, especially given Africa’s relatively tiny contribution to carbon emissions and surging global demands for fossil fuels. This can jumpstart the development of critical infrastructure and expand local access to power in several African states that have made discoveries in natural gas. The long-term vision of EU-AU energy cooperation must remain the facilitation of a complete transition to net-zero carbon emissions. As EU ministers look to accelerate the implementation of the European Green Deal, African states can once again serve as promising trade partners to help make the plan a reality. The African continent’s geography offers enormous potential for wind, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric power, while also being home to some of the richest deposits of critical minerals and rare-earth metals essential for green technology (EU-AU February 18, 2022).

Presently in the African markets in different countries, prices of goods and services are so embarrassing to consumers. It is likely that most of the retailers are continuously taking the advantages of the Russo-Ukraine war of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to inflate prices consumer goods which are not and were never imported from neither Ukraine nor Russia. All talks nowadays are that “ it is the consequences of the war in Ukraine”. This unimaginable negative market forces are what may bring in socio-political chaos in most countries if the local manufacturing systems and local farmers do, not reflect faster than ever before to embark on mass production. This entails different governments to adjust in the policy of domestic subventions to her prominent local producers and alternative products to replace the previous imported goods. In fact, the main challenges now is” Great Fear” which is linking to the blink of an imminent and costly Third World and South Africa which is a strong supporter of the Russian should think twice of the nuclear implantations of Russian in that part of the African Continent and how those bases stands to the detriment of countries around the Southern Africa in case of any global confrontation with the Hyper-Unique Power (U.S.A) in relations to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) with much power

tousle with the Western and other Eastern European powers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. However, contradictory African responses to the Russo-Ukrainian War and the matter of been silence by some African countries is not going to yield positive results but to move from fear consequences to the revision of importation and exportation policies with the forces of demand and supply in the local markets and local production to cease rapidly from dependency position in relations to comparative and absolute advantages for sustainability and prevention of domestic uprisings.

#### **BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR**

Dr. Njuafac Kenedy Fonju is a holder of a Doctorate / Ph.D in History with specialisation in the History of International Relations obtained from the University of Yaounde I, Cameroon in 2012. He has been lecturing since 2007, as a Part-Time Lecturer (2007-2015), Assistant Lecturer (2015-2017) and presently a Senior Lecturer in the University of Dschang, Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, Department of History and Archeology since November 2017. He delivers lectures in the History of International Relations and Political History in the Post-Graduate and undergraduate levels. Dr. Kenedy has been lecturing courses such as Africa in International Relations, China from the Communist Revolution to Market Economy, Communist World in International Relations, Inter-American Relations and Black Problems in the Americas, Conflict Resolution and the Culture of Peace, Issues and Challenges of the Commonwealth of Nations and Political Elites in Colonial Black African Countries, the Politics of empowerment of Minorities in the World since the 20th Century, and History of Political Thought since Machiavelli. He is also lecturing Introduction to Bilingualism, Introduction to language and Nation-Building, the History of Bilingualism in the World, National and International Business in Bilingualism in the Department of Bilingual Letters of the University of Dschang. In addition, He also delivers lectures concerning scientific English in the Departments of Physics and Earth Sciences in the Faculty of Sciences of the same institution. His broader research interests include emerging powers and their foreign policy strategies and strength in the 21st Century specifically China and United States as hyper-economic powers of the 21st Century with the Super Stars of Asia. He is the author of twenty five scientific articles focusing on Asia, China, Eastern and Western Europe, U.S.A, Africa and the Challenges of international terrorism in the World with two scientific international communication papers presented and have also edited three books on the African Gulf of Guinea with two prefaces written in the two volumes of 2017, 2018 and 2021. He has also served as the Divisional Secretary of the former Cameroon National Elections Observatory of Lebialem Representation, Elections Supervisor, Election Monitor, and Trainer of Trainers of Polling Stations Delegate from 2002 to 2007. He was also

appointed Secretary of Alou Council Tenders Board for the Awards of Public Contract in the municipality from July 20, 2016 to April 2, 2019. Presently, he is a Municipal Councilor of Dschang Urban Council since February 9, 2020 Municipal Elections in Cameroon, spokesman of the Municipal Group, appointed Referral in the implementation of Bilingualism (English and French) in the Dschang Municipality and recently, Rapporteur of the Commission of National, International Decentralised Cooperation of Development and Communication within the forty-one (41) Councillors of Dschang Council since December 2020. Presently, Team Leader of Diaspora Studies in the Research Unit for African Studies and the Diaspora (RUASD) and Secretary. Have successfully organized two international conference scheduled for November 2021 on Migration challenges of Africa-America and Africa-Europe Diasporas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and on February 9, 2022 on Bilingualism, Multiculturalism, Multi-lingualism and the Emergence of Cameroon.

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