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TWO

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2

The First General Assembly (GA2) is one of the six main organs and was formed in October 1945, having represented 51 countries, which is chaired by His Excellency Carlos Amorin of Uruguay. Yearly, from September to December, the Committee gathers at the Headquarters located in New York City, their collaborative efforts and valuable contributions made during these meetings play a crucial role in determining the future of the organisation. In previous years, as reported by the UN council, there have been on average 41 drafts passed and we hope that cooperation and inter-state interactions will allow for numerous more drafts to be created on these issues.

GA2, also known as ECOFIN (the Economic and Financial Affairs Council), focuses on establishing economic development growth within the international community. The Assembly seeks to create and develop accessible solutions to address and tackle the challenges faced by the Second Committee, such as this year's theme of Displacement; the responsibilities of the Second Committee include, all of which aim to enhance global stability. The Economic and Financial Committee, however, cannot create legally binding Resolutions but can propose topics for discussion to the Security Council, that align with the United Nations Charter.

This committee aims to discuss important topics that relate to sustainable development, financial investment, globalisation or handling economic crises'. The two main topics we will discuss are the economic implications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the financial future of space tourism and exploration; both topics are increasingly prevalent in today's world and will shape the upcoming events in the global world order. We aim to achieve at this General Assembly are declarations, resolutions and treaties that can help solve financial issues currently being tackled worldwide.

The General Assembly should be able to mediate and reduce the problems caused by the Russia-Ukraine war and find ways to compensate for the mass financial insecurity seen from energy and food shortages across the world. In regards to space tourism and exploration, the committee should be able to correctly invest in the future and ensure that such investment will benefit states at both a national and global level. It is important to note that sustainability is of utmost priority and thus all financial decisions should consider environmental implications for all relevant states

TOPIC 1

On the 24th of February, 2022, the invasion of Ukraine was launched by the Russian Federation, which has officially become the largest attack on a European country since World War Two, due to the fact that Ukraine applied for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), escalating the tensions between Russia and the Western Forces.

Whilst the Russia-Ukraine conflict has many global repercussions, this does not undermine the fact that emigrations from both nations have caused a Human Capital Flight leading to further economic instability. However, considering the fact that the Russian Federation has had an economic growth of 3.6% in 2023 and is predicted to increase by 2.3% growth in 2024, moreover, in 2023, the Russian Consumer Inflation has dropped below 4%. To add on, because Russia has reduced its oil exports by 11,956,177 United States Dollars (USD), this globalised the interconnected world, leading to more economically unstable oil importers across the European Union and the West. However, the decrease in reliance on Crude and Refined Oil leaves more space for the development of Sustainable Energy. Nonetheless, it is important to note that in 2022, Russia received over 16,500 sanctions, worth approximately 350 billion USD, which has led to its Gross Domestic Product dropping by 2.1%.

Ukraine's wheat production has significantly decreased during the start of this conflict, which has increased the price of everyday items such as cereal, for consumers worldwide; wheat is considered to be used regularly, with 785 million metric tons in the market yearly, the industry is one of the largest worldwide. In addition, since it is used in common items, such as bread, baked goods, pasta, etc..., this means that the supply must outstrip the demand to meet the current market, which is generally the case and is especially beneficial to lower paid individuals. However, considering the current situation, the price of wheat has increased by 2%, making it unaffordable for hundreds of thousands worldwide as Ukraine was a key producer of wheat; whilst worldwide consumers suffer from reduced wheat consumption, the farmers in Ukraine are said to have experienced a 1.4 billion USD loss which comes to show the importance of dealing with such situation at a global scale.

If urgent action is not taken, there is a strong risk that this conflict may trigger the start of an economic downfall, which has sparked concerns about the long-term consequences of such conflict on the global economy among nations. Additionally, whilst the affected regions are severely impacted socioeconomically, the conflict equally poses a risk for the global markets, causing further uncertainty in what were once stable markets, such as Housing; the oil prices and exchange rates rapidly fluctuating will have a devastating long-term effect on all businesses, whether local or Trans-National Companies. Therefore, it is only a minimal expectation that the international community work together in order to prevent a potential economic downfall and avoid the possibility of large-scale displacement.

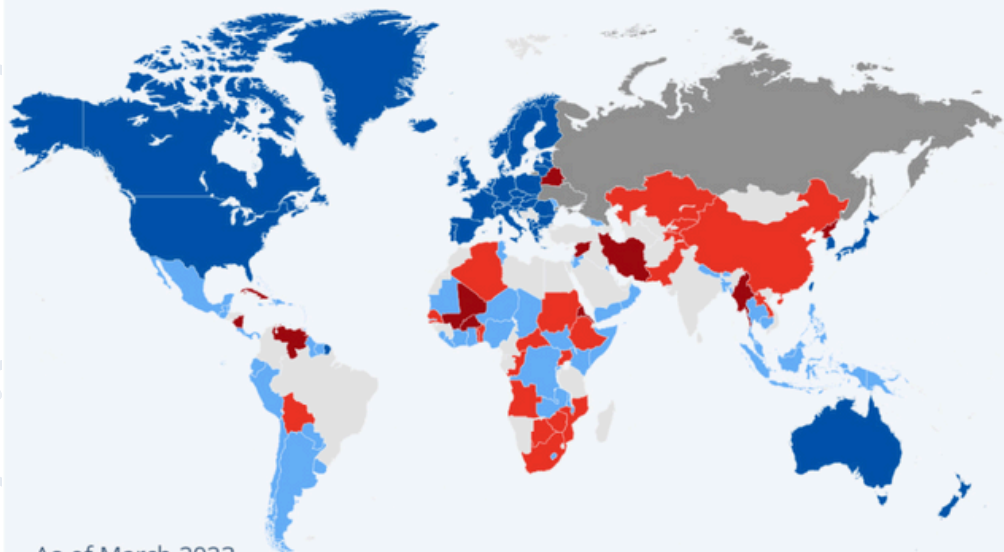
STATES INVOLVED

STATES INVOLVED:

1. Russia
2. Ukraine
3. Moldova
4. Belarus
5. Turkey
6. Egypt
7. China
8. Spain
9. Italy
10. Lebanon
11. Netherlands
12. Germany
13. Poland
14. USA

Where Countries Stand on Russia

■ Supports Russia
 ■ Russia-leaning
 ■ Neutral
■ West-leaning
 ■ Condemns Russia



As of March 2023
Source: EIU



RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

RUSSIA:

As a central and major state in the war, aptly named for its involvement as the “Russian Invasion” of Ukraine, the financial implications of Russia’s involvement in the war has led to several hits to the Russian economy. As a major global superpower and a state with the world’s largest landmass (16,376,870 Km²) spreading over two continents, Russia has a large sphere of influence on global political action. Because of this, Russia has faced some opposition from other international actors. With countries like the USA showing clear opposition to Russian activity and increasing foreign involvement in the war, Russia has had to really pick up their military spending, moving towards a reported \$75 billion in military spending, approximately 40% more than the initial military budget announced in 2021. Due to this massive increase in military spending, the Russian economy is losing large portions of its GDP to the war. This could be drastically dangerous for Russia due to the fact that the war’s damage to infrastructure, military losses and impacts on trade has also had repercussions on the Russian economy. By spending large portions of the Russian GDP in military spending, while tackling other external issues, Russia is more susceptible to economic damage and fluctuations. Furthermore, with a large portion of the Russian economy being based on energy and natural gas reserves, some reports such as the Economist have stated that Russia's “gas business will never recover from the war”. The extent of this statement, especially considering Russia is the World’s second largest natural gas exporter, demonstrates the extent of financial ramifications this war could have on Russia. Overall, this means that for Russia, this General Assembly is truly about tackling their consolidation of power and ensuring that their economy, trade and spending is going in the right direction.

UKRAINE:

Ukraine is yet another country that has suffered from significant financial implications of the war. Ukraine has been described as the country with the worst financial impacts from the war, with some reports claiming that in the first year of the conflict, the country lost 30-35% of GDP, leading to Ukraine’s worst recession IN HISTORY. With such financial implications at a domestic and national level, Ukraine has been put in a tough position. While Ukraine suffers through their recession, the war has also cut off most of Ukrainian agricultural trade. While the state was a developing country, it was well-known to be some of the world’s largest exporters of corn, seed oils, wheat and rapeseed. With trade routes being cut off by the war and massive damage at a local level, the ports, airports and other forms of trade have been restricted. Due to the cut off of many agricultural products, the world has had somewhat of a ripple effect and the restriction of Ukraine’s exports have damaged countries worldwide. In this general assembly, Ukraine needs to be able to manage reintroducing trade, coming to agreements about financing and ensuring that the war does not interfere too much with economic development.

MOLDOVA AND BELARUS

Moldova and Belarus are two actors that have faced economic repercussions from the Russia-Ukraine war. They are two key actors in this general assembly due to their geographical proximity to both Russia and Ukraine. For Moldova, the core issue is the trade and reliance on energy from the two war-torn states. Moldova has always reportedly relied on Russian imports for gas, with some stating that even up to 81% of Moldovan electricity and energy was reliant on imports. However, recently, Moldovan Prime Minister Dorin Recean announced a statement claiming the following: "If at the start of the war 100% of energy consumed in Moldova originated in... Russia, today Moldova can exist with absolutely no natural gas or electricity from Russia". With such bold claims, Moldova shows a clear move towards self-reliance and independence. When considering this view, it should showcase how even though Moldova is of such close proximity to the war, the country has attempted to separate itself from the conflict. This means that in this general assembly, Moldova should utilise the assembly to stimulate transnational trade and ensure that no external reliance should be on Russia. Furthermore, they should ensure that their new production of energy could be essential in sustainable financing and exports.

On the other hand, while Moldova managed to separate itself from the conflict, nearby state Belarus did not manage the same extent of success. Belarus has always been Russia's close ally and was even reportedly seen to even aid Russia's invasion of Ukraine by allowing them the shortest path to get to Ukraine. Because of Belarusian reliance on Russia, all trade with Ukraine has been massively disrupted and any economic impacts in Russia causes damage to Belarusian economic stability. While one would assume such damage to be extremely harmful to Belarus, many reports stated that their economy only shrunk by 4.7%, a situation described by the OSW as "better than expected". Thus, in this general assembly, Belarus should attempt to stay close to Russia yet also try to find some self control and autonomy in managing their finances - how can they survive the future when economically reliant on a war-torn state?

TURKEY, LEBANON AND EGYPT

The Middle East and North African region is very susceptible to change, especially due to the varying financial stability in some areas within the region. Lebanon, for example, is a state that has been extremely vulnerable to a multitude of crises. Internal conflict, political tension, corruption, inflation, regional warfare and socio-economic instability has played a significant role in shaping Lebanon's political agency. Because of the variety of issues stemming from both within and around Lebanon, the Russia-Ukraine war does have impacts on the state. As mentioned, Lebanon has been vulnerable to any external action and the conflict in Russia and Ukraine has disrupted trade routes and energy transfer, allowing for even more inflation of regular commodities and energy prices.

While not to the same extent, Egypt has faced similar ramifications. Egypt has been reported to have 60% of their wheat imported from Russia, while 22% was imported from Ukraine. Due to the conflict sparked in both states that take up major stakes in Egypt's agricultural imports, the country faced mass problems relating to agricultural availability. Not only was there a sudden deficiency in wheat and basic agricultural commodities but the tensions in the region even damaged Egypt's tourism sector and led to economic shrinkage. Another state impacted by the war in Russia and Ukraine was Turkey.

Similarly to Egypt, the wheat imported to the state takes up a majority of Turkish imports, with reports stating that wheat imports from Russia stand at around \$2 billion while Ukrainian wheat imports is nearing \$500 million. The mass dependence on agriculture does inhibit Turkish growth, but the financial implications of the war does not just end there. While other states have made moves to separate themselves from Russia, Turkish leader Erdoğan has claimed that Turkey cannot cut ties with Russia because of "import dependency." Nearly half of Turkish energy and gas is supplied from Russia and a large portion of their trade stems from Russian pipelines being placed on Turkish soil. This puts Turkey in a complex position. While they do condemn Russian actions they have to stay in solid diplomatic relations with them due to import dependency on these imports. Also, due to Turkish proximity to contested regions like Crimea, the tourism industry has also slightly shrunk due to geopolitical tension in the region. Overall, Turkey is one of the most complicated states to represent due to the numerous aspects one has to take in about their foreign policy, import dependency and their nationalistic need to succeed as an independent actor. Will you be able to make accurate decisions to solve these issues and handle the Turkish economy?

USA AND CHINA

Even if they are located in different continents, their geographical proximity means that also the United States has suffered due to this conflict. The main economic challenge created is the economic instability which has increased in the US as channels such as disrupted trade and fluctuating energy prices have become a more common theme. The USA, like several countries in Europe, has a high dependency on the oil in Russia therefore in these past few years have been trying to diversify their energy source such as liquified natural gas exports.

On a more political level, this conflict has reinforced the importance of the NATO alliance for the USA and all European countries as they try to limit Russia's military attacks. The USA has publicly reaffirmed its membership in NATO and has increased its military presence on the Eastern Europe front. In February 2022, it was announced that another 3,000 troops were going to be sent airborne from the US to Ukraine to help fight against Russia.

China has been impacted in several ways by this conflict between Russia and Ukraine with varying impact depending on the factor considered. China has a major global economy yet due to the dependency on external countries, it is highly impacted with slight changes in the international trade distribution. An example of this is the large impact on the prices of energy and grains and due to China's heavy reliance on importing these goods, their economy has consequently suffered. Furthermore, several supply chains have been stopped due to the sanctions imposed on Russia. China is also a major importer of energy resources, including oil and natural gases and any disruptions on this have a direct impact on its oil security. This country has 5% of the total shares of oil in the world yet with sanctions imposed there are some limitations to its transportation. This conflict could potentially impact the energy supply, the cost and could lead China to diversify its main producer of oil. This change could later on impact some geopolitical dynamics in place between China and Russia.

Before the conflict started, China and Russia had strengthened their energy cooperation by signing a long-term agreement which involved the construction of pipelines which transported oil from Russia directly to China. An example of one which is already built is the East Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline which supplies oil to China's northeastern regions. This pipeline entered phase 2 of development in 2012 and transports the equivalent of 1.6 million barrels per day.

GERMANY, POLAND AND NETHERLANDS

As major European Union states, all three countries need to secure their financials. While both the Netherlands and Germany have strong economies, Poland is much more susceptible to impacts of the war. However, due to their influence in the region, the financial ramifications of the war could extend farther than just their state boundaries. TO look at each state individually, the biggest topic of discussion is energy reliance from Russia. Due to Russia's large natural gas and oil reserves, much of Europe is supplied by their nearby oil, yet the amount of energy reliance on Russia is unhealthy in the case of conflict. Because of this, the European Union claimed to be phasing out Russian energy imports in the region yet it had varying success. Recently, the Netherlands announced full independence from Russian energy, claiming that all oil and gas reserves have "run dry". While the Netherlands claim to have completely transferred their oil away from Russia, Germany faced a middle ground. At the start of the war, Germany had up to 55% of their energy coming in from Russia, however, they have attempted to transfer their focus away from Russian energy reserves. While both the Netherlands and Germany have attempted autonomy, instead of producing energy themselves, they have tried to import large quantities of liquified nitrogen gas (LNG), facing mass inflation of energy prices. While this may be successful in the short term, by moving their energy sources to other imports, these European states will face heavy repercussions if the war was to ever expand globally. The third relevant state is Poland, who has a very similar story to that of both Germany and the Netherlands. While Poland and Russia have deteriorating relations, they have massively decreased their Russian energy imports from 55% in 2022 to nearly 0 in 2023. Instead, Poland has followed the other European states to focus on LNG, relying on 85% of their energy on the Baltic pipeline. As mentioned above, this is risky for a state to keep pushing their energy to imports from other states, especially at the risk of regional warfare.

SPAIN AND ITALY

While not at a close proximity to the physical conflict, as EU states, both Spain and Italy have faced some confrontation and financial impacts from the conflict. As Europe is one of the world's largest markets, any impacts in the region would have ramifications across its states. As both Spain and Italy do trade with Russia and Ukraine, they both face more domestic problems from the war. Due to soaring energy prices, some inflation has occurred in both states, impacting the local people. The inflation has led to rising electricity and food prices in both states and some political tension about the war expanding over state boundaries. It is important to note that this is not serious by any means and both states wish to maintain financial stability. This means that in this general assembly, both states need to ensure that their main aim is financial regulation, especially as the European Council even claimed that in a severe scenario, regional inflation could go as high as up to 7.1%.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What legislation should be put in place in order to prevent the escalation of such conflict?
2. How can we attempt to restore the delicate economic balance within the international community?
3. What role do responsibility and accountability take when considering the economic implications of such conflict?
4. How will you consider global repercussions to these issues?
5. With such a topical issue, how will you pave forward?
6. Remember, peace is the top priority!

TOPIC 2

Since the 1950's, human exploration of space, defined as Low Earth Orbit ("Space Tourism: The Next Frontier") , has been restricted to only astronauts and trained scientists. However, in recent years, due to the increase in technological advancements and developments, it is becoming more and more available to private companies and individuals, notably Elon Musk's SpaceX, Intuitive Machines, which are the first private entity to successfully land a spacecraft on the moon ("Exploring the History of Lunar Landings as U.S. Company Achieves First Private Moon Landing"). However, one of the most recent advancements in space exploration is space tourism. Space tourism is a branch of space exploration used for recreational purposes.

Space tourism encompasses a range of different areas. For example, orbital, suborbital, and lunar space tourism. Space tourism seeks to give tourists the ability to experience space travel and exploration in the same manner as astronauts would, for recreational, leisure, or business purposes. ("Space Tourism").

However, space tourism is only a niche segment of the aviation industry, due to its highly expensive nature and limited accessibility to only the wealthiest and most influential individuals. Currently, space tourism can cost upwards of \$250,000 per person. With themes of sustainability and global development, you must be able to ensure that finances are effectively managed, states pursue their own interests and try to shape the world's future exploration!

STATES OVERVIEW

STATES INVOLVED:

1. United States of America (USA)
2. Russia
3. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
4. China
5. India
6. Japan
7. Australia
8. Thailand
9. Saudi Arabia
10. Spain
11. South Korea
12. Germany
13. United Kingdom
14. Canada

The states chosen specifically for the GA2's Space tourism topic are all countries who have increased space investment and research in the past few years. Below is a quick summary of each state's main activities:

PAST UN ACTIONS

The idea of space tourism is a very relevant and new concept that has increased in focus over the past few years. Below are some previous UN actions on space-related activities yet not much has really been achieved in space tourism as a new sector. With increased investment in space technology and innovation, the UN should take this opportunity to create treaties and resolutions outlining a framework from which states could progress in this field.

- 2017** = Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
- 2013** = Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space
- 2007** = Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organisations in registering space objects
- 2004** = Application of the concept of the "launching State"
- 2000** = International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
- 1961** = International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

STATES PERSPECTIVES

THE USA AND RUSSIA:

Since their “Space Race” during the mid 1900s, Russia and the USA have strived to achieve more than just reaching the moon. The USA has used NASA as their main form of space exploration and research, accompanied in recent years by SpaceX, Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin. The USA also has a large spending budget of \$22.6 billion in space exploration, showing its importance for the state. Similarly, Russia has also made clear moves towards space exploration and tourism. Through their space agency Roscosmos, Russia has even let several private individuals enter space, leading the way for space tourism worldwide.

CHINA, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, THAILAND:

China, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand have all made significant contributions to space exploration, each focusing on different aspects of space technology and science. China is known for its ambitious lunar and Mars missions, Japan excels in asteroid exploration and international collaborations, South Korea is advancing in satellite technology and lunar missions, and Thailand is building its capabilities through satellite programs and regional cooperation. The large amount of satellite missions and research coming out of (South) East Asia has truly been accompanied by the large amount of technological advancements coming out of the region. Of course out of all these states, China, the global manufacturing powerhouse, has had the most success in this department with the release of the Mars rover Zhurong in 2021.

STATES PERSPECTIVES

CANADA, UK AND AUSTRALIA:

Canada, the UK and Australia have all made significant moves towards space exploration in the past few years. Canada's robotics programs have succeeded in collaborating with countries like the USA and have allowed for several Canadian astronauts to be a part of pivotal space missions. The UK's space agency has also been influential in creating satellite technology but has now made moves towards commercial spaceflight, especially with combining space agencies and companies such as Virgin Galactic and OneWeb. Thirdly, Australia's new space agency founded in 2018 has made significant strides towards space exploration, including several satellite programs and international collaborations. In relation to space tourism, Australia has begun to grow their commercial space sector by utilising companies like Fleet Space Technologies and Gilmour Space Technologies.

SPAIN AND GERMANY:

Both Spain and Germany are essential to this committee as they represent themselves as members of the European Space Agency. Both states have had citizens become humans in spaceflight and have shown progress in the research about space exploration. With their connections to the European Space Agency they are able to pool and share resources and monetary capabilities, meaning that several states are able to aid space exploration and tourism attempts. Due to the increased funding in the space sector, Spain and Germany will be able to help manage finances and figure out what exactly could be done in the space tourism field.

STATES PERSPECTIVES

Saudi Arabia, UAE:

Saudi Arabia has made significant moves towards space flight with the creation of their space agency in 2018. While they have only recently begun to collaborate with other states like the USA and create space programs, they have had a longer history with space travel through the fact that the first Arab, Muslim and Royal that entered space in human spaceflight was a Saudi Arabian Prince in 1985. Similarly to Saudi Arabia, a fellow Gulf state, the UAE has made significant moves for space exploration and tourism. Their most important mission was their Mars mission of the Hope Probe in 2020 which eventually reached orbit in 2021. They have also released men to space through their successful astronaut programs and have conducted mass research on space topics. The region is one of the most promising areas for space exploration in the coming years.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How will your state manage financial capabilities with space progression?

2. Do you think that space research and tourism can help domestic problems or global challenges here on Earth?

3. Is space tourism the utmost priority for your state?

4. Remember to consider that your state will shape what the UN allows for space exploration. Try to keep some room for you to explore.

5. Why does your state want to succeed in space tourism?

6. How far will your state go to achieve their goals?

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