

THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN DE-ESCALATING THE EFFECTS OF THE UKRAINE-RUSSIAN CRISIS.

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Abstract

The world has always paid enormous price as a result of armed conflicts. All spheres of countries' development are affected whenever two nations dive into major armed crisis but the economy has time and again proven to always receive the worst strike. Ukraine-Russian crisis has run aground the world's most integral aspects of economy expansion and growth ranging from agriculture, education, energy to infrastructural development. In the light of this background, this essay does not only examine the effects of Ukraine-Russian crisis but went further with the important steps the African Union needs to take in other to de-escalate them.

Keywords: African Union, Ukraine, Russian, Crisis.

1.0.Introduction

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, containing green transitions and reducing the flow of development finance in the continent” (Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations)²

When, in 1939, the world greatest known despot and the last German Fuhrer, Adolf Hitler invaded the sovereign territory of Poland, this singular act against international mutual understanding of

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² Ashish Kumar “Ruusia's War in Ukraine is Taking a Toll on Africa” United States Institute of Peace (2022) <https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/06/russias-war-ukraine-taking-toll-africa> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

territory integrity brought the world to a destructive standstill, leading to the death of 3% of the world's population³ with a hazardous economic impact. Funny enough, Africa which contributed little or nothing ended up engulfed by the deadly and disastrous implication of what has been described as the deadliest military conflict in history.⁴

As the ancient adage goes “History will always repeat itself by different actors”, the Russia-Ukraine crisis has pushed the world in a similar situation of 1939-1945, this time not as a world war but war of the world with a global economic, social and political catastrophe in a wrong timing when the world is still trying to recover from a global pandemic that crushed its very foundation. Africa is not exempted from the pathetic effects of Russia-Ukraine crisis, it appears that while the war is on going in Ukraine, African countries are at the receiving end of the pain, hunger and disaster at the same time, as one hardly needs a seer to see that the effects of the war is felt in very street, household, nooks and crannies of African territory and the world at large.

2.0. The Effects of Ukraine-Russian Crisis

Through, it is difficult to glimpse what is not affected by the Ukraine-Russian crisis but food security seems to have received the worst hit. African countries before this crisis used to import 80% of it's wheat and Sunflower from Russia and Ukraine.⁵ Aside that, they are in the list of the top highest exporters of barley and corn.⁶ While Russia accounts for the highest fertilizer

³ Salem Media “How Many People Died in World War 2?” History on the Net(2000- 2022)
<https://www.historyonthenet.com/how-many-people-died-in-world-war-2> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁴ History. Com “World War 2” History.com Editors (2021)
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.history.com/.amp/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁵ AUDA-NEPAD “Impact of Russia-Ukraine Conflict on African Food Systems” Editorial (2022)
<https://www.nepad.org/microsite/impact-of-russia-ukraine-conflict-african-food-systems> Accessed on 15th September, 2022

⁶ Global Times “Ukraine's Grain Exports Near Levels Before Start of Conflict with Russia” Agencies (2022)
<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202208/1273783.shtml> Accessed on 15th, September 2022

importation into Africa,⁷ Ukraine exports millions of metric tons of potatoes annually into Africa.⁸ It was reported that in 2020 alone, Russia and Ukraine exported agricultural products worth \$4 billion and \$2.9 billion respectively to Africa.⁹ Nigeria, one of the 4th highest importer of wheat import 25% from Ukraine and Russia¹⁰ while Sudan imports half of her wheat from the duo of Russia and Ukraine.¹¹ Organizations such as the two-time Nobel Peace laureate and the World's largest humanitarian organization, "The World Food Programme" (WFP) buys half of its' wheat from both countries.¹² One-third of the world's wheat also comes from Russia and Ukraine, little wonder they were nicknamed the "World's Breadbasket".¹³

A glance at the above statistics will leave one with a better intel of what the Ukrainian-Russian crisis has plunged the world into in terms of food security. The high cost of living is nothing to write home about, the world's inflation rate has increased from 7.47% in February to 9.22% in July 2022.¹⁴ Hunger and scarcity of food has become the order of the day, the number of global food insecure people has increased from 135 million to 345 million.¹⁵ In Kenya, where 90% of the

⁷ James Tasamba "African Leaders Want Embargo Exemptions From Wheat, Fertilizer Imports from Russia" *Turkiye*(2022) <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/african-leaders-want-embargo-exemptions-for-wheat-fertilizer-imports-from-russia/2613932> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁸ Ecofin Agency "Russia-Ukraine Conflict renders Food Supply Precarious in Africa" *Public Management*(2022) <https://www.ecofinagency.co/public-management/3105-43635-russia-ukraine-conflict-renders-food-supply-precious-in-africa> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁹ Wandile Sihilobo "How Russia-Ukraine Conflict Could Influence Africa's Food Supplies" *The Conversation*(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/theconversation.com/amp/how-russia-ukraine-conflict-could-influence-africas-food-supplies-177843> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

¹⁰ OEC "Wheat in Nigeria" *Subnational Monthly Trade*(2022) <https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateral-product/wheat/reporter/nga> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

¹¹ Clemens Breisinger "Sudan: Russia-Ukraine Conflict is Driving up Wheat Prices _ This Could Fuel Instability in Sudan" *AllAfrica*(2022) <https://allafrica.com/stories/202204140109.html> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

¹² Human Rights Watch "Ukraine/Russia: As War Continues, Africa Food Crisis Looms" (2022) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/28/ukraine/russia-war-continues-africa-food-crisis-looms> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ D. Clark "CPI Inflation Rate Worldwide 2019-2022" *Statista*(2022) <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1317738/global-inflation-rate-monthly/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

¹⁵ World Food Programme "A Global Food Crisis" *WFP*(2022) <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1317738/global-inflation-rate-monthly/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

wheat comes from Russia, 3.1 million people are hungry while a good number of households borrow, beg or get their foods on credit. All thanks to Ukraine-Russian crisis.¹⁶

It is trite that everything has a double dimension of advantage and disadvantage. One of the silver lining of Ukraine-Russian crisis is that it led to the increment in the price of crude oil and natural gas. African countries are to benefit hugely from this as for the first time in 14 years, the price of crude oil surpassed \$100 per barrel and even sold as high as \$139 for a barrel.¹⁷

Russia produces the second highest natural gas and is a big masquerade in the community of oil producing countries.¹⁸ This is even a well known fact that Russian gas drives the European economy. This crisis has made Europe to reduce her crude and gas importation from Russia and in search of alternative especially from Africa to fill the gap Russia will leave in its' energy industry.¹⁹ Algeria, the biggest natural gas exporter in Africa is cashing out from Europe, as well as Nigeria, Morocco etc.²⁰ Tanzanian president sees the crisis as a means for East African countries to generate massive revenues from crude oil and gas.²¹ But what amount can African countries produce to quench the world's taste for crude oil and gas? When countries like Nigeria has failed

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Forbes "Oil Surges To \$139 A Barrel As Biden Weighs Russian Bans and Pleads with OPEC for More" Forbes.com(2022) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2022/03/07/oil-surges-to-139-a-barrel-as-biden-weighs-russian-bans/> Accessed 15th September, 2022.

¹⁸ IEA "Energy Fact Sheet: Why Does Russian Oil and Gas Matter?" Analysis(2022) <https://www.iea.org/articles/energy-fact-sheet-why-does-russian-oil-and-gas-matter> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

¹⁹ Stefan Ellerbeck "What Progress is the EU Making on Ending its' Reliance on Russian Energy?" World Economic Forum(2022) <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/06/russia-eu-energy-imports/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022

²⁰ Isaac Anyaogu "Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt Offer Europe Alternative to Russian Gas" Business Day(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/businessday.ng/amp/energy/article/nigeria-algeria-egypt-offer-europe-alternative-to-russian-gas/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

²¹ Nicholas Norbrook "Tanzania: President Samia says Russia/Ukraine Tension an opportunity for Gas Sales" TheAfricaReport(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.theafricareport.com/178985/tanzania-president-samia-says-russia-ukraine-tension-an-opportunity-for-gas-sales/amp/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

to build her gas and crude oil infrastructure, no functioning refinery coupled with underutilization of pipeline for gas which has left her neighboring countries to adopt LNG station at higher prices when a functioning pipeline in Nigeria would have serve many countries of Africa.²² Algeria has also invested poorly on its' production with a major hindrance by insecurity in the country.²³ Even, the profit some African countries are making has a collect and take effect, for instance, the closure of fertilizer plants in UK because of high cost of gas drastically affects food production in Africa.²⁴ The lack of carbon dioxide which is needed for nearly everything from medicine procedures to food storage are been felt in Africa and across the globe.²⁵ Also, this has enormous influence on the cost of transportation, for instance, Nigerian Aviation industry has threatened to shut down twice because of the high cost of fuel which has tripled but had been bail-out twice by the Central Bank of Nigeria. ²⁶

Furthermore, the crisis has resulted in mass dispensation of international students. Ukraine due to its' affordable tuition fees with quality education accounts for the total number of 76,000 foreign students, nearly half of this comes from Africa with Morocco alone accounting for whooping

²² Adewale Sanyaolu "Russia-Ukraine War: Nigeria Fails to Secure Spot Dominance in Africa Gas Market" TheSUN(2022) <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/russia-ukraine-war-nigeria-fails-to-secure-spit-dominance-in-wafrica-gas-market/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

²³ Intissar Fakir "Given Capacity Constraints, Algeria is no Quick Fix for Europe's Russian Gas Concerns" MEI(2022) <https://www.mei.edu/publications/given-capacity-constraints-algeria-no-quick-fix-europes-russian-gas-concerns> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

²⁴ Nathalie Thomas "Gas Price Surge Triggers UK Fertilizer Plant Closures and Crop Warnings" Financial Times(2022) <https://www.ft.com/content/b2e7b6ed-fa14-48e1-a463-4d3b09c654dd> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

²⁵ OECD "The Supply of Critical Raw Materials Endanger by Russia's War on Ukraine" OECD(2022) <https://www.oecd.org/ukraine-hub/policy-responses/the-supply-of-critical-raw-materials-endangered-by-russia-s-war-on-ukraine-e01ac7be/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

²⁶ Emma Ujah "CBN releases \$265m to airlines" Vanguard(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.vanguardngr.com/2022/08/breaking-cbn-releases-265m-to-airlines/amp/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

8,000, Nigeria blazing 4,000 while staggering 3,500 comes from Egypt.²⁷ This pathetic crisis has entangled many African students with the cords of armed conflicts and its' bloody consequences. Many students have been added to the list of war casualties by been killed or injured badly while others are left to choose between the red sea of transferring their studentship to other European expensive universities that they parents can't afford or the deep ocean of returning to the same dilapidated university system that made them to cross the Mediterranean Sea while in search for qualify and afford education which Ukraine offered them, that's even if there is a university to return to as in the case of Nigeria where the universities have been shut down for the past 7th months. Depressing!

Also, the crisis has badly hit the World's metal market and disrupted the global supply of steels through investors are making moves to resume the production but to resume the operation of cooking plants for steel production, there is a dire need for cooking gas which Ukraine imports majorly from Russia.²⁸ Ukraine imported in 2021 8m tons of cooking coal which stood at 43%²⁹ but currently only 1 of 6 steel plants in Ukraine is working fully due to lack of coal.³⁰ Secondly, the issue of logistic needs to be resolve as Russia warship blocked the black sea thereby preventing the exportation of steel through the seaport.³¹ This effects the construction industries, Ghana where

²⁷ Pernille Baerendtsen, Nwachukwu Egbunike "AfricaninUkraine: We are Students, We don't have Guns" Globalvoices(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/globalvoices.org/2022/02/28/africansinukraine-we-are-students-we-dont-have-guns/amp/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

²⁸ Stanislav Zinchenko "Impact of Russia-Ukraine War on Steel Production and Supply Chains" GasWorld(2022) <https://www.gasworld.com/impact-of-russia-ukraine-war-on-steel-production-and-supply-chains/2022943.article> Accessed 15th September, 2022.

²⁹ Kingsley Jeremiah "Gas Prices May Soar over Russia, Ukraine Tension" The Guardian(2022) <https://www.gasworld.com/impact-of-russia-ukraine-war-on-steel-production-and-supply-chains/2022943.article> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Ibid

60% of its' iron ore and steel are imported from Ukraine³² like many countries are faced with the challenges of high cost of construction while even humanitarian organizations have stopped their projects channeling funds to alleviate and mitigate the suffering of war in Ukraine.³³ Also, the price of everyday metals has skyrocketed, neon, platinum, nickel, iron that come mainly from Russia and Ukraine continue to soar higher in Africa and across the world.³⁴ Even the aerospace industries that either depends on Russia for titanium are in search for alternative.³⁵

Another effect of Ukraine-Russian crisis is the increasing terrorism and armed conflict in Africa. The war has forced Russian to withdrew her mercenaries in African countries where they record significant present such as Sudan and Central African Republic, helping in the fight against terrorism, and other forms of insurgencies.³⁶

3.0. The Role Of African Union In De-Escalating The Effects Of Ukraine-Russia Crisis

The African Union might have little or nothing to bring to the table to end the Ukrainian/Russian crisis credited to its' non-alignment policy. This stand was recently made clear by the African Union President, Mackey Sall while addressing a press conference when he said “we do not want

³² Citinews “We are Directly Affected by the Russia-Ukraine War – Bawuinia” Citinews(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/citinewsroom.com/2022/04/we-are-directly-affected-by-the-russia-ukraine-war-bawumia/amp/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

³³ Carol Guensbury “Humanitarians Cheer Generous Aid to Ukraine but Fear Cost to Other Crisis” VOANEWS(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.voanews.com/amp/humanitarians-cheer-generous-aid-to-ukraine-but-fear-cost-to-other-crises-/6528342.html> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

³⁴ Sarah Schiffing “Five Essential Commodities that will be Hit by War in Ukraine” TheConversation(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/theconversation.com/amp/five-essential-commodities-that-will-be-hit-by-war-in-ukraine-177845> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

³⁵ Willy Shih “The Titanium Supply Chain for the Aerospace Industry goes Through Russia” The Forbes(2022) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/theconversation.com/amp/five-essential-commodities-that-will-be-hit-by-war-in-ukraine-177845> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

³⁶ AFP “Russian-backed Mercenaries Withdrawing from Africa Ready for Ukraine” CARAVANSERAI(2022) https://central.asia-news.com/en_GB/articles/cnmi_ca/features/2022/02/11/feature-01 Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

to be aligned on this conflict, very clearly we want peace, even through we condemn the invasion, we are working for a de-escalation, that is the Africa position”.³⁷ To walk the talk and show that the African Union means business, this was followed up by African Union regretting Ukraine President request to address the Union's Heads-of-State at two conservative time. On the third request which the Union accepted, the body language was clear as only 4 of 54 African Head of States we're in attendance.³⁸ Due, the African Union hands might be tied when it comes to playing in the gallery of the crisis but the tie does not extend to its' roles in de-escalating the effect as it has an ocean of role to play.

In the words of Amit Roy “Africa is a good farmer, who can feed her continent if she is given the tools and the opportunities to do so”.³⁹ To achieve this, African Union Heads-of-state should leverage on the 60% arable land⁴⁰ coupled with 60% population of smallholder farmers in the continent⁴¹ to boost agriculture through the development and dissemination of advanced seedlings, insecticides, pesticides and building mechanism to help land irrigation, storage and climate resilience. As continent with large deposit of natural gas, nitrogen fertilizer should be produced for exportation and distribution to farmers. Grants should be given to smallholder's farmers by

³⁷ P. Handy, F. Djilo “ Unpacking Africa's Divided Stance on Russia-Ukraine War” premium Times(2022) <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/548322-analysis-unpacking-africas-divided-stance-on-russia-ukraine-war.html> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

³⁸ Ben Norton “Only 4 of 55 African Leaders Attend Zelensky Call, Showing Neutrality on Ukraine and Russia” MrONLINE(2022) <https://mronline.org/2022/06/25/only-4-of-55-african-leaders-attend-zelensky-call-showing-neutrality-on-ukraine-and-russia/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

³⁹ Michael Fleshman “Boosting African Farm Yields” United Nations(2022) <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/special-edition-agriculture-2014/boosting-african-farm-yields> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁴⁰ Wim Plaizier “2 truths about Africa's Agriculture” World Economic Forum(2016) <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/how-africa-can-feed-the-world/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022

⁴¹ Lutz Goedde “Winning in Africa's Agricultural Market” Mckinsey and Company(2019) <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/agriculture/our-insights/winning-in-africas-agricultural-market> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

African Development Bank while agricultural companies should receive tax relief for a period of 10 years. Also, it is pertinent to establish more agricultural research institutions while the existing ones should be properly funded for agricultural groundbreaking research. There is also a dire need for more funding on roads for easy accessibility to market in order to tighten the chain of supply. To meet with the current demand of this agricultural era, the use of science and technology must be normalized.

Another aspect that African Union needs to look into critically is the issue of infrastructure which is the soul and heart of economic productivity and growth. As European Union is planning to cut totally her gas and crude importation from Russia,⁴² the Union should invest in liquefied petroleum gas, gas and crude processing, refineries. In order to export gas and crude exportation in Africa and across the globe, building natural gas and crude export terminals, continent gas pipeline should be a top priority. Other aspect of infrastructure should not be left behind, as noted by Loe Holtz and Chris Heitzig “poor infrastructure continues to hinder economic growth in Africa”,⁴³ African Head of States must increase its' funding on electricity, transportation, water resources, internet etc. As only 43% of African population have access to electricity⁴⁴ with mere 40% of the continent population exposed to internet.⁴⁵ This lagging behind affects production and economy prosperity. Infrastructural projects can be finance through Public-Private Partnership, loans from foreign

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ L. Holtz, C. Heitzig “Figures of the Week: Africa Infrastructure Paradox” Brooking(2021) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2021/02/24/figures-of-the-week-african-infrastructure-paradox/amp/> Accessed on 15th September, 2022

⁴⁴ Yomi Kazeem “Access to Electricity is Growing Rapidly Around the World Except in Africa” QuartzAfrica(2018) <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/agriculture/our-insights/winning-in-african-agricultural-market> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁴⁵ John Campbell “Last Month Over Half-a-Billion African Accessed the Internet” Council on Foreign Relations(2019) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.cfr.org/blog/last-month-over-half-billion-africans-accessed-internet%3famp> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

countries to be paid back from the returns of the infrastructure and support from foreign agencies and governments.

Small and Medium Enterprises which accounts for 80% of jobs in the continent is major driver of our economy.⁴⁶ Due 51% of them need more capital to grow while the financial institutions ready to give loan do so at a high rate.⁴⁷ The African Union needs to partner with international and local financial institutions to provide capital through blended finance programs. Large enterprises should not be left out, the union should start orientation to encourage made-in-African products and also subsidizing them while hiking the price of imported products, through this, the like of Innoson and Wallys car groups that manufactures cars in Nigeria and Tunisia respectively, Mara group that produce Phone in Rwanda or Segen Solar that makes solar panels in South Africa will be a household name and boast Africa economy through easing unnecessary importation. Also, considering that many innovative ideas are held by young African but are constrained by capital judging from fascinating ideas that float up yearly on Tony Elumelu foundation Entrepreneurship programme. The African Union through the African Development Bank and various central banks of countries should be giving more non-refundable grant to Africa youths with outstanding ideas.

Moving forward, the education sector especially the tertiary institutions should be properly funded to avoid African students trooping in like ants in universities abroad while the number of foreign students in ours remain equivalent to the numbers of human in planet Mars. While UNESCO recommends that 25% of annual budgets should go to education⁴⁸, this is like pouring water on a

⁴⁶ CSIS “Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises in Sub-Saharan Africa Through Blended Finance” CSIS Brief(2021) <https://www.csis.org/analysis/supporting-small-and-medium-enterprises-sub-saharan-africa-through-blended-finance> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ Wahab Adesina “Against UNESCO's Recommendations, Nigeria Budget Only 3.6trn of #55.3trn for Education in 6yrs” Vanguard(2021) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.vanguardngr.com/2021/10/against-unescos->

stole as many African countries budget is far below this. Little wonder, no African universities is among 180 best globally.⁴⁹ To provide 21st century education, Universities should be granted a full autonomy in that way they can recruit qualify academic eggheads who are in line with advanced technology, procure equipment needed for quantitative teaching and qualitative research. In that way produce students who are problem solvers with practicality of knowledge and those who can compete with their peers globally.

Security of lives and properties is the primary responsibility of any government. The African Union needs to establish a joint African Armed Forces comprising of specific number of personnel and funds coming from each member states with the headquarters and training center in Egypt that has the highest standing armed forces of 1.3 million.⁵⁰ This will help in the war against terrorism and insurgency that is spreading like wide fire across the continent, help to properly secure the continent and most importantly put the controversial issue of bring foreign mercenaries to Africa to rest.

Also, countries with large quality of solid minerals like South Africa should increase it budget on exploration and mining. Egypt, Tunisia and Zimbabwe should increase their steel manufacturing capacity for export instead of the hitherto production for their use only. Nigeria should see to the

[recommendation-nigeria-budgets-only-n3-6trn-of-n55-3trn-for-education-in-6yrs/amp/](#) Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁴⁹ TimesHigherEducation “Best Universities in Africa 2020” TimesHigherEducation Rating(2021)
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-universities-africa> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

⁵⁰ Business Insider Africa “Top 10 African Countries with the Largest Military Personnel” BIA(2022)
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/africa.businessinsider.com/local/lifestyle/ranked-top-10-african-countries-with-the-largest-military-personnel/b4xvcxq.amp> Accessed on 15th September, 2022.

completion Ajaokuta steel mill that was started in 1979 but yet to be finalized which would have catapulted Nigeria into the legion of industrious nations as a matter of urgent necessity.⁵¹

Conclusion

The Ukraine/Russian crisis has excavated the dependent and handicap of African states especially on agriculture, energy, infrastructure etc. The African Union has over the years come up with marvelous developmental strategies. The timely implementation of African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTA), its' offspring, Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Science and Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and The African Union Climate Change Strategy will be a tremendous booster to de-escalating the effect of Ukraine/Russian crisis. Africa has been swimming in the mucky water of backwardness for donkey years, safe to conclude, the best time for the African Union to champion the forwardness of the land of milk and honey is now.

⁵¹ Abdulkareem Mojed "Buhari Govt Unlikely to Fix Ajaokuta Steel as Planned – Minister" Premium Times(2022) <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/business/business-news/521193-buhari-govt-unlikely-to-fix-ajaokuta-steel-as-planned-minister.html> Accessed on 15th of September, 2022.