

## *“The Impact of War on GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY: Crimes against Humanity?”*

THE JHBC took a pledge with the United Nations in 2012, to graduate “responsible management professionals”, who would emphasize ethical values toward the planet, people, and profits. The PRME-MAGALOGs take into account world situations that matter in these areas.

**The current situation of the war perpetrated in Ukraine begs the question to our JHBC PRME platform: “What will be the Impact of War on the Biosphere?” This JHBC-PRME MAGALOG examines this.**

### THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF WAR:

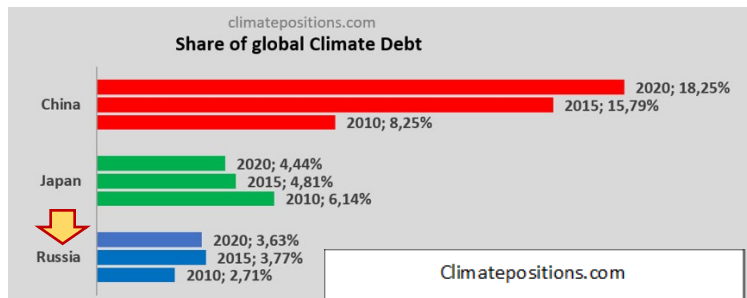


The environmental consequences of war are known to exacerbate environmental, social and economic damages on the planet. In this context, one can view the Russian War against Ukraine of 2022, as an instrument that will have severe impacts on our biosphere ; and unless we learn to address crises nonviolently via diplomacy, we will only make them worse. War puts a strain on the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals whose strategic mission is to stop man-made ravages on the earth by 2030.

One can safely surmise that the environmental impacts of the Russian war on Ukraine will have dire effects--a both short, and long-term, greenhouse gas emissions. This will not only have bearing on the environment in Ukraine, but also in the immediate region, and around the planet. Some of the harms from war that impact global sustainability development goals are:

### MASSIVE FUEL CONSUMPTION: John Kerry, Secretary of State in the Obama Administration ,

cautioned “massive emissions consequences” from a Russian war against Ukraine. This releases CO<sub>2</sub> which Kerry feared would impede the work being done on climate change, and the UN-SDG #13— i.e., distraction from work required on climate change for climate sustainability by 2030. Left: Russia’s existing climate Debt, 2020.





GETTY IMAGE

**FIGHTING AROUND THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR PLANT:**

Russia has seized control of the Chernobyl nuclear exclusion zone after an intense fight over the area. Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to the Ukrainian presidential office, said: "It is impossible to say the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is safe after a totally pointless attack by the Russians." (Yahoo News, 24 February 2022). The world remembers this as the venue of the

world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986. The site is still being decommissioned and there are fears that halting of the decommissioning could trigger another nuclear this leads to a stoppage of the routine maintenance decommissioning, this could raise the possibility of another devastating nuclear episode.



**DEFORESTRATION--IMPACT OF CHEMICALS ON THE LAND:**

The American military used approximately 20 million gallons of herbicides like Agent Orange to defoliate Vietnamese forests and swamps between 1961-71, which devastated the natural environment. The toxins inherent in the herbicide caused birth defects. [See: Vietnamnet → left]. There is no reason to believe that the

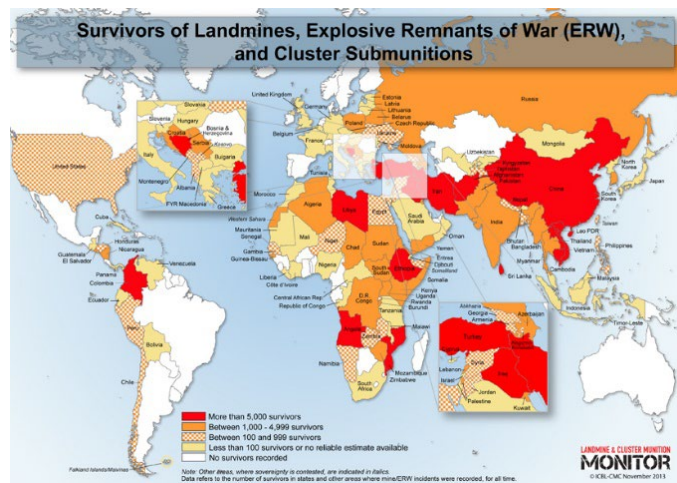


Russians will refrain from using these kinds of chemicals in Ukraine.

**INVASIVE SPECIES:** Tanks, trucks and aircraft can bring not only personnel and weaponry but also invasive new species to areas in war areas. These can destroy plants that provide food for living species, and also may destroy rare plants and animals. Left: www.worldbook.com →



**LANDMINES & CLUSTER BOMBS:** Tens of millions of deadly military ordnance in the form of landmines and cluster bombs exist around the world from war and conflicts of the past.



The U.S. State Department has noted that land mines are "the most toxic and widespread pollution facing mankind" (1993). Fertile land is left fallow when there is fear of these lethal harms. Explosions affect species diversity and damage water and soil systems. While many of the world's nations have agreed to ban land mines and cluster bombs, the past placement of these things continue to be a constant danger. Scales. Destruction of land by heavy and large scale vehicles scar the land and biodiversity.



**DISPLACED INDIVIDUALS:** Warfare causes the mass movement of people. Family separation, abandoned farmland and Below from Getty images, is shown Ukrainians on the move. These refugees put strain on the regions to which they are moving, causing further cause for conflict. In a country of 44 million people, the United Nations estimates that there could be millions of refugees fleeing to neighboring countries. The majority of refugees arrived in Poland and Moldova, but there are *"many more moving towards its borders"*, said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi (Newsweek, 2/25/2022) On right pictures by Getty images.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the United States representative to the U.N, said during her address to the United Nations Security Council emergency meeting on Monday, February 21, that nearly 3 million Ukrainians already needed *"food, shelter and lifesaving assistance."*



### CLIMATE POLICY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SINCE 1990:



The **UNITED NATIONS** believes that there can be no durable peace if the natural resources that sustain livelihoods and ecosystems are destroyed. Its **UN-SD GOAL #16:** states its aspiration to *"Promote peaceful inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."*

**UN-SDG TARGET #16.1** *Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.*

Violence reduction is essential to the sustainable development of communities. We know that violence clusters in specific areas and that in these areas with the highest levels of violence, the violence itself is a barrier to development. When communities experience high rates of violence, efforts to develop their economies and social institutions are threatened by feelings of endangerment. SDG 16 promotes the right to live safely, free from the fear of violence.



NEOSIAM 2021



The 1992 Rio Declaration by the United Nations reads as follows:

***“Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary.”***



Six United Nations agencies and departments (UNEP, UNDP, UNHABITAT, PBSO, DPA and DESA), coordinated by the UN Framework Team for Preventive Action, have partnered with the European Union (EU) to help countries identify, prevent and transform tensions over natural resource as part of conflict prevention and peacebuilding programs. (Global Research Programme on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Natural Resources, 2007).

On 27 May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.15, which recognized the role of healthy ecosystems and sustainably managed resources in reducing the risk of armed conflict, and reaffirmed its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals listed in General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

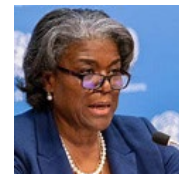
## **Joint Statement Following a Vote on a UN Security Council Resolution on Russia’s Aggression Toward Ukraine**

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United States Mission to the United Nations  
New York, New York  
February 25, 2022

### **Joint Statement Following a Vote on a UN Security Council Resolution on Russia’s Aggression Toward Ukraine**

*The following is a joint statement as delivered by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Representative to the United Nations, on behalf of Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.*



This afternoon, the Security Council voted on a resolution to hold Russia accountable for its aggression against Ukraine, to protect civilians, including children, and call for the facilitation of rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian assistance to those in need.

This resolution was vital and straightforward. Fundamentally, it was about whether the countries on the Security Council – charged with maintaining international peace and security – believe in upholding the UN Charter.

The UN Charter was written with the express purpose of preventing a war like the one President Putin just started. This war has brought, in just its first days, devastating losses of life – and Russia alone is accountable.

President Putin chose to violate Ukraine’s sovereignty. President Putin chose to violate international law. President Putin chose to violate the UN Charter. President Putin chose to drop bombs on Kyiv, to force families to stuff their lives into backpacks and shelter in subway stations. President Putin is the aggressor here. There is no middle ground.

We believe we have a particular responsibility to stand up to this violation of the UN Charter because Russia is a Permanent Member of the Security Council who is culpable. Those of us standing here today continue to believe in the Security Council’s solemn duty and highest purpose – to prevent conflict and avert the scourge of war.

Russia has abused its power today to veto our strong resolution. But Russia cannot veto our voices. Russia cannot veto the Ukrainian people. Russia cannot veto their own people protesting this war in the streets. Russia cannot veto the UN Charter. Russia cannot, and will not, veto accountability.

We thank the Member States who signed on as co-sponsors of this resolution for standing with Ukraine and with the UN Charter today.

We will be taking this matter to the General Assembly, where the Russian veto does not apply and the nations of the world will continue to hold Russia accountable.

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By [United States Mission to the United Nations](#) | 25 February, 2022 |

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