

Special Conference On The International Consequences Of The Current Military Operations In Ukraine

*Looking ahead to rebuilding and reconciliation in
Ukraine*



Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2022

Rebuilding and reconciliaton

Forum: *Special conference on the international consequences of the current military operations in Ukraine*

Issue: *Looking ahead to rebuilding and reconciliation in Ukraine*

Student Officers: *Lore Eckelmans and Felix Meesters*

Positions: *Chairs*

Introduction

The Russian war in Ukraine has claimed thousands of lives and forcibly displaced millions, killing or wounding 10,000 civilians across Ukraine, with 335 children among the 4,889 documented dead. However, the actual numbers are much higher. We all see these terrible events taking place in Ukraine in the news every day. The war is still in full force and Russia is not yet ready to give up the war. The goal for Ukraine now is to win and they should do so on their terms. Even though the end of the war still seems far away, it is never too early to start thinking about rebuilding Ukraine after the war and how we can build the country's future.

It is important to think about reconstruction now that millions of Ukrainians who have lost their livelihoods are at risk of falling into poverty. The damage and destruction to homes, hospitals, destroyed factories, bridges, residential complexes and schools will take years to rebuild. Not just the physical building must be repaired or rebuilt; the economy of the country has also been destroyed. There is next to no income and all that is left, goes towards the national defence.

Ukraine's Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov stated that the Russian invasion had damaged about \$100 billion worth of infrastructure and buildings. These amounts are enormous and do not even account for the damages caused to the health of the Ukrainian citizens or the environment. Therefore, it will be an equally enormous task to raise enough funds to rebuild Ukraine to allow it to reach the same level of prosperity as it had before the Russian invasion.

It is important to bring post-war Ukraine together for better reconstruction and to give democratic societies the confidence that reconstruction can take place in a transparent manner.

Another aspect of this issue is the reconciliation. It is important that we prevent a second war or a subsequent conflict between Russia and Ukraine. That is why we must ensure that good agreements are made between Russia and Ukraine and with the rest of the world. The reconciliation is therefore a big important aspect when we look at the future for Ukraine.



Definition of Key Terms

Rebuilding:

Building (something) again after it has been damaged or destroyed. In this case, it is about Ukrainian (private) property which has been damaged because of the war against Russia.

Reconciliation:

The act of causing two people or groups to become friendly again after an argument or disagreement. In this case it is important that Ukraine and Russia are no longer enemies. That is to prevent another war. Therefore, they must reconcile.

Economic damages:

Economic damages refer to compensation for objectively verifiable monetary losses such as past and future medical expenses, loss of past and future earnings, loss of use of property, costs of repair or replacement, the economic value of domestic services, and loss of employment or business opportunities. In this report we talk about the economic damages that Ukraine must deal with.

Environmental damage

Environmental damage or degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife. It is defined as any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be deleterious or undesirable.

Psychological damage

Psychological, or emotional trauma, is damage or injury to the psyche after living through an extremely frightening or distressing event and may result in challenges in functioning or coping normally after the event

Total bill

In this research report the total bill is about the total amount of costs incurred by the war in Ukraine. This is difficult to capture due to the many costs that have been incurred and the costs that cannot be calculated.

General Overview

Economic damages in Ukraine:

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is decimating Ukraine's economy. It is expected that in 2022 alone, the Ukrainian economy will have been reduced by 45,1%. The long-term effects of the war on Ukraine's economics heavily depend on the duration of the war.

As a result of Russia's aggression so far, an estimated \$113,5 billion in damages has been caused in Ukraine. This damage is visible in every aspect of life. 715 cultural facilities, 934 healthcare facilities, 105,2 thousand cars and 115,9 thousand private houses have been destroyed. These numbers still increase every single day.

Due to the war, a total of 131.300 residential buildings were severely damaged or destroyed. Due to this, more than 3,5 million people are now left homeless. As a result of these colossal damages to residential homes, housing funds have the largest share of damages with over 47,8 billion USD in total damages to housing.

The second largest share of damages is made up of the destruction of infrastructure in Ukraine. According to the Kyiv School of Economics, at least 311 bridges and twenty-five thousand kilometres of road have been destroyed due to the war. To combat this severe loss of infrastructure the Ukrainian Ministry of Infrastructure says it has already restored traffic with the use of forty-nine artificial structures on state highways. The total damage to infrastructure in Ukraine has been estimated to be about thirty-five billion dollars.

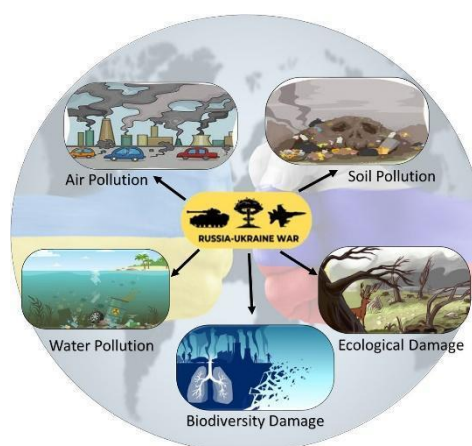
Other sectors that have seen major damages are enterprises and industry with an estimated \$9,5 billion in damages, the education sector with 3,9 billion US dollars in damages, and the transportation sector with about three billion dollars in damages (Kulich).

The total reconstruction and recovery needs, however, far exceed the 113,5 billion US dollars in damages. As of writing this report, the total monetary need for the recovery of destroyed assets is about \$200 billion. The difference is made up of losses caused by the war (Kulich).

Environmental damage:

The second form of damage, which is often overlooked, is environmental damage. Water sources get contaminated due to damaged industrial facilities, threatening ecosystems and human health conditions. Constant bombardments and troop movement deteriorate air quality. Shelling and bombardments have changed the physical, chemical, and biological structure of the soil, severely affecting agriculture. Military actions cause large-scale deforestation and wildfires. And lastly, fighting around radioactive plants has increased the odds of leakage of radioactive materials (Rawtani et al).

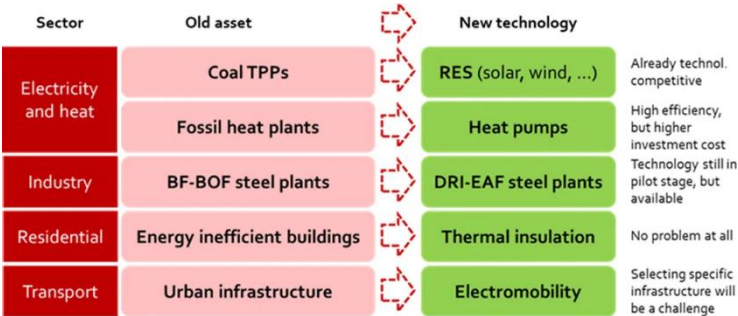
The largest single environmental disaster since the beginning of the Ukraine war was when the Nord Stream 1&2 pipelines were blown up. Although gas was no longer flowing through the pipelines, they were still filled with stationary gas, that had not been taken out. The most notable gas in the LNG that was flowing



through the pipes methane and escaped through the four leaks was methane. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, being 80 times stronger than CO2 (Masterson). In total, it is estimated that about 115.000 tonnes of methane have been released due to the ruptures. This is comparable to the annual carbon emissions of two million cars (Sanderson).

The health effects of strikes on heavy industry, chemical plants, and pipelines will last for a long time. Respiratory ailments and an increase of cancer will be the most visible of these consequences. Furthermore, the war has resulted in an increased amount of waste. Debris of destroyed buildings, shell fragments and abandoned or destroyed military equipment now litters the landscape of Ukraine. A part of this waste is especially toxic, asbestos, heavy metals and medical waste will require special teams to decontaminate the affected areas.

Not all hope is lost though, the rebuilding of all the damage caused by the invasion provides a ton of opportunities to replace previous use of polluting technologies with better, greener alternatives. Due to this Ukraine's economy could be transformed into a more sustainable version of itself. In 2019, less than five percent of Ukraine's total energy supply came from renewable sources.



Psychological damage

Another form of damage that impacts the entirety of the Ukrainian population is the mental toll that the war is taking. It is estimated that about fifteen million Ukrainians will require psychological assistance, of which three to four million will require medication to cope with the trauma. Because these conditions will affect so many, it is feared that country will feel the consequences of it for many years to come.

Citizens have been exposed to the horrors of war, which Russia brought right to their doorstep. Besides that, they have been subjected to tremendous amounts of stress because they lost access to basic resources such as electricity, food, and water. Furthermore, they are having strong feelings of injustice and unfairness, as they watch how Russia tries to take away the nation’s hard-earned democracy and freedom. All these factors combined can lead to a multitude of mental ailments such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD (Javanbakht).

The worst instances of trauma, however, are reserved for those that are currently fighting for the freedom of Ukraine. They are often undertrained and even less prepared for the horrors of war that they are confronted with during their deployment. It is of vital importance to the future of these brave people that they can find help to cope with these experiences that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

Reconciliation

The Ukrainian army is rapidly gaining back control over their national territory. This brings hope for the future of Ukraine. However, with Russia backing out of the grain deal, the end of the conflict is nowhere to be seen. Fierce fighting and bombing still go on. What makes reconciliation between Ukraine and Russia especially difficult, is that Russia claims parts of Ukraine's national territories as theirs. As long this claim is not withdrawn the conflict will last, unless Ukraine decides to surrender part of its territory to Russia, which is highly unlikely given the stance that Ukraine has taken on the issue in the past.

President Zelensky has already stated that there will be no peace talks between Russia and Ukraine for as long as Putin remains in power in Russia. He made this statement after Russia held an "illegal" referendum and skewed its results to support his territorial claims on Luhansk and Donetsk (Kuznetsov).

Besides that, there remain heavy sanctions on Russia by a lot of nations. It will be a difficult decision to know whether these should or should not be lifted and if so when they will be lifted. If it is decided that they should be lifted when Russia and Ukraine come to a peace agreement, it can take years for that to happen.

Major Parties Involved

Russia:

Russia is the aggressor in this conflict, they might be held responsible for the damages, but it is highly unlikely that they will accept this. Reconciliation will be dependent on how their territorial claims develop. Probably the cost will also be so high that Russia can't afford it. Other sanctions will therefore have to be taken. But it's going to be hard because Russia won't accept the sanctions or cost easily and we don't want the whole economy of Russia to fall.

Turkey:

Turkey has proven to be a valuable partner in negotiations on this issue, they are neutral towards both sides making it an easy middle ground for both parties to meet. So Turkey wants the best for both countries, by not taking sides.

Ukraine:

Ukraine is suffering the consequences of the destruction war brings with itself. If it must rebuild by itself, it will be set back in its development. Reconciliation is also dependent on what expectations Ukraine has for a peace treaty or ceasefire. They are not able to do this alone because the land has been devastated to such an extent that they now don't have the resources to rebuild the country. therefore many countries have to help.

European Union:

The European Union is currently being looked at a lot for aiding Ukraine in its efforts to rebuild the nation. Before the war, they were Ukraine's most important trade partner and even entry to the EU has been mentioned as a viable way to further help repairing the nation after this conflict has ended.

United Nations:

The United Nations is the organisation best suited to coordinate an international plan to help Ukraine recover from the war. Resolutions made by the UN will play a key factor in how international aid will be given shape. It is quite a task to find a good solution for this immense problem. So there is still a lot to talk about.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
16.1.1988	The USSR dissolution
24.08.1991	Ukraine was separated from Russia and thus a state of its own.
01.12.2021	Start of the tension between Ukraine and Russia.
21.02.2022	Putin announces the recognition of the independence of Luhansk and Donetsk.
24.02.2022	Start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
10.10.2022	UN human rights experts expressed serious concern about migrants from Ukraine
12.10.2022	he UN General Assembly passed a resolution Calling on countries not to recognize the four regions of Ukraine claimed by Russia, important for the reconciliation.

Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

Previously, a lot of different states have said that Ukraine will help, however, none have made any binding commitments towards helping the nation.

UN Involvement, Possible Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Large numbers of civilian casualties and massive destruction of civilian infrastructure caused by the Russian military are not in line with international humanitarian law, UN-human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said in a report presented Tuesday at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The report examines the human rights situation in Ukraine from the start of the Russian invasion on February 24 to May 15. The findings are based on information gathered by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine during eleven field visits, visits to three detention centres and 517 interviews with victims and witnesses of human rights violations, as well as other sources of information. This report is of course especially important to map out the state of human rights and how we can advance them.

The UN Security Council adopted a statement on 6 May 2022 strongly supporting the Secretary-General's efforts to find a peaceful solution in Ukraine.

On October 12, the UN General Assembly passed by a large majority a resolution calling on countries not to recognize the four regions of Ukraine claimed by Russia after the so-called referenda held in September, and demanding Moscow is reversing course on its "attempted illegal annexation". The results were 143 member states in favour, five votes against and thirty-five abstentions.

On October 21, Rosemary DiCarlo, the UN's head of political affairs, briefed the Security Council, along with the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine, Denise Brown.

They said Russia's military escalation in Ukraine will lead to more global suffering and must be reversed and that with each passing day, UN teams on the ground are confronted with "new dimensions of the emergency".

On October 10, UN human rights experts expressed serious concern about migrants from Ukraine, saying that a third of the population had fled the country since the start of the war, and that women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities are in extremely vulnerable situations were placed.

These are of course nice advances, but so far it has been about talking and researching. No real attempt to solve the problem has yet been made.

Possible solutions

Rebuilding Ukraine will be an exceptionally large and very expensive feat. If Ukraine is to do it will take them a very long time to recover from the damages and rebuild their nation. Because of this, there is only one real option to help Ukraine thrive as it did before the war any time soon. That option is (financial) aid from other countries.

Although it is clear what solution is necessary, it is easier said than done. Even when shared, the total bill of reparations is immense. This is furthermore complicated by the fact that the world is going through a global recession. This means that countries will be very hesitant to give financial aid to Ukraine as they are already struggling to get by. Besides that, labour, materials, and energy have also sharply risen in price. The only way the difficulties can be overcome is by international cooperation with a long-term vision.

It is still difficult to foresee what efforts will be made towards reconciliation. Both sides are still in a deep diplomatic crisis with neither of them looking to give up on their demands anytime soon. President Zelensky has stated that Ukraine will not participate in peace talks until Putin is no longer in charge.

The only way that reconciliation is possible, is when both sides come together and give up some of their demands to reach a middle ground that suits both parties as well as possible. It is likely that peace talks will be held in Türkiye, as they have been the most successful in hosting talks between the two nations.

Bibliography

- “Different Means of Pollution Due to Ukraine War.” *Science Direct*, Elsevier, 20 Aug. 2022, https://ars.els-cdn.com/content/image/1-s2.0-S0048969722050318-ga1_lrg.jpg. Accessed 30 Oct. 2022.
- “Environmental Impacts of the War in Ukraine and Prospects for a Green Reconstruction.” *OECD*, OECD, 1 July 2022, <https://www.oecd.org/ukraine-hub/policy-responses/environmental-impacts-of-the-war-in-ukraine-and-prospects-for-a-green-reconstruction-9e86d691/>.
- “Examples of ‘Green’ Reconstruction Options for Damaged/Destroyed Assets.” *Environmental Impacts of the War in Ukraine and Prospects for a Green Reconstruction*, OECD, 1 July 2022, <https://www.oecd.org/ukraine-hub/policy-responses/dynamic/ukraine-policy-responses/9e86d691-chapter-d1e22/mediaweb/images/5.png.webp>. Accessed 30 Oct. 2022.
- Halpert, Madeline. “War Has Caused \$108 Billion in Damage to Ukraine's Infrastructure, Study Finds.” *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 2 Aug. 2022, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/madelinehalpert/2022/08/02/war-has-caused-108-billion-in-damage-to-ukraines-infrastructure-study-finds/>.
- Javanbakht, Arash. “Ukrainians Face Lasting Psychological Wounds from Russian Invasion.” *Scientific American*, Scientific American, 11 Mar. 2022, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/ukrainians-face-lasting-psychological-wounds-from-russian-invasion1/>.

Kulich, Hnat. "Damage Caused to Ukraine's Infrastructure during the War Increased to \$113.5 Bln, Minimum Recovery Needs for Destroyed Assets Is Almost \$200 Bln." *Kyiv School of Economics*, Kyiv School of Economics, 22 Aug. 2022, <https://kse.ua/about-the-school/news/damage-caused-to-ukraine-s-infrastructure-during-the-war-increased-to-113-5-bln-minimum-recovery-needs-for-destroyed-assets-is-almost-200-bln/>.

Kuznetsov, Sergei. "Zelenskyy: There Will Never Be Peace Talks with Putin." *POLITICO*, POLITICO, 28 Sept. 2022, <https://www.politico.eu/article/volodymyr-zelenskyy-peace-talks-vladimir-putin-russia-ukraine/>.

Martsyniak-Dorosh, Oksana. "Opinion: The Heavy Psychological Toll of the War in Ukraine." *Medical News*, MedpageToday, 9 Oct. 2022, <https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/101119>.

Masterson, Victoria. "Nord Stream Methane Leaks Are 'World's Worst' – What Does It Mean for Climate Change?" *World Economic Forum*, World Economic Forum, 6 Oct. 2022, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/10/nord-stream-pipeline-methane-leaks/#:~:text=Methane%20equivalent%20to%20a%20third,cubic%20metres%20of%20natural%20gas.>

Rawtani, Deepak, et al. "Environmental Damages Due to War in Ukraine: A Perspective." *Science of The Total Environment*, Elsevier, 9 Aug. 2022, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969722050318>.

Russian Invasion to Shrink Ukraine Economy by 45 Percent This Year, World Bank, 10 Apr. 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/10/russian-invasion-to-shrink-ukraine-economy-by-45-percent-this-year>. Accessed 30 Oct. 2022.

Sanderson, Katharine. "What Do Nord Stream Methane Leaks Mean for Climate Change?" *Nature News*, Nature Publishing Group, 30 Sept. 2022, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-03111-x>.

"The Ambition Is There to Rebuild Ukraine. Here's How to Make It Work." *Atlanticcouncil.org*, 27 Oct. 2022, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/the-ambition-is-there-to-rebuild-ukraine-heres-how-to-make-it-work/>.

"Ukraine Reconstruction Is a 'Long Road' but It Must Start Now: Guterres." *News.un.org*, 5 July 2022, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1121992> .

Prince, Todd. "West Has 'Will' To Rebuild Ukraine, Lithuanian Minister Says." *Www.rferl.org*, 21 Apr. 2022, <https://www.rferl.org/a/lithuania-skaiste-ukraine-russia-war/31815208.html> .

"Joint Press Release: Ukraine Recovery and Reconstruction Needs Estimated \$349 Billion." *Ec.europa.eu*, 9 Sept. 2022, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_5428 .

"The UN and the War in Ukraine: Key Information." *Unric.org*, 9 Mar. 2022, <https://unric.org/en/the-un-and-the-war-in-ukraine-key-information/> .