

*Economical and Social Council*

*ECOSOC*



*Addressing the  
economical influence  
of developed countries  
in war-torn areas*

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**Strength in diversity**

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## *I. INTRODUCTION*

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (Economic and Social Council, n.d.). It is responsible for the “direction and coordination of the economic, social, humanitarian, and cultural activities carried out by the UN” (Britannica, 2022). For the attainment of this goal, this UN organ was established in 1945, and it elects its members for a three-year term, them being selected by the General Assembly.

Decisions are taken by a simple majority vote and the president of the committee changes each year. Most of ECOSOC's work has the purpose of ensuring functional social development, validation of human rights, and addressing narcotics, population, science, and technology issues (Britannica, 2022). It is the United Nations’ organ that is in charge of taking action on taking care of the well-being of humans and social environments.

Belic conflicts are an issue that humanity has dealt with for centuries. It comes with the destruction of patrimony and the death of innocent citizens. One of the strongest reasons why the United Nations arose is because armed conflict was tormenting the international community, causing immense destruction among cities. Even though the UN has been able to minimize the consequences of belic conflict, and to reduce the probability of happening consecutively, armed conflicts are seen until this date. ECOSOC keeps working in order to tackle its rising and develop solutions to stop armed conflicts.

It is statistically known that developing countries are more likely to be predisposed to belic conflict. “Eight out of 10 of the world's poorest countries are suffering, or have recently suffered, from large-scale violent conflict” (Stewart, 2002). Apart from destruction, it is known that other consequences of Belic conflicts include “poverty, underdevelopment, and ill health” (Stewart, 2002). Meaning that armed conflict can be the reason that causes several new issues to spawn. This is why smaller economies in a post-war situation need the help of economic aid from developed countries.

Setting aside the human life cost, belic conflict brings a serious impact on the economy of each involved nation. Consequences such as “damage to the infrastructure,

a decline in the working population, inflation, shortages, uncertainty, a rise in debt and disruption to normal economic activity” (Economics, 2022). Taking into account other perspectives, armed conflicts can be unfairly beneficial since it creates demand, employment, forces innovation, and creates profit. All of these occur especially when the conflict takes place in another country.

Although some companies seem to benefit from war, it has its side-effects, since the governments waste some of their economic funds in order to create nuclear weapons, increase the military power, or rebuild destroyed towns, all those resources could potentially have been used for matters like improving education or healthcare. For example: “if Iraq's war didn't take place, around 860 billion dollars could be used for different purposes by the end of 2009” (The New York Times, 2009).

Companies in fact represent a minority. A large percentage of citizens around the globe are affected by different effects of belic conflicts. An example of this is inflation, where it leads to the loss of popular economical resources, causing a loss of confidence in the financial system (Pettinger, 2022). This problem leads to another, which is a lack of goods and services, raising the price of raw materials like oil. Likewise, this consequence depends on the characteristics of the conflict.

It is important to look into other consequences which are not the first ones to be seen or noted. Tourism is another factor that is affected by any type of conflict, either a conflict between nations or a civil armed conflict. Another affected area is the foreign investment, nobody outside a country likes to spend or to bet that the stocks of a company inside a country in belic conflict will rise, that is why foreign investment is something that is affected in a negative way. Sanctions to the country are another reason why so many seem affected, some citizens just for being of a specific country, seem affected by not being able to sell their product in some markets, countries, or places (Peace, dignity, and equality on a healthy planet, 2022). This is a problem that affects every individual around the world in some way, therefore it is a conflict that shall be addressed and short and long-term solutions must be formulated.

## ***II. HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM***

Armed conflicts are a problem that causes mass destruction and violent actions. It is stated that the first belic conflict to ever be recorded was in Mesopotamia in 2,700 B.C. (How long have there been wars?, n.d.). Violence has been a source of conflict resolution for humanity ever since prehistoric times. These conflicts have been caused by several reasons including religion, power over land reach, self-defense purposes, or problems with other nations (Frankel, n.d.). Each of these reasons isn't and shall not be excused, due to the consequences belic conflict has on the development and sovereignty of countries. Large-scale international law is the reason why armed conflicts can be resolved. Treaties can be done where nations are able to bring aid to other countries regarding economical resources. This way, places affected by belic conflicts are able to recover and diplomatically resolve the negative consequences of violence.

It is also necessary to take into account that as armed conflicts have been disputed through the years, citizens have been affected, and the popular economy suffers all the expenses from such violent conflict. "Democratic governments are reluctant to ask their citizens to pay much higher taxes while they're also placing them in peril, most large wars also involve changes in monetary arrangements to finance the conflict" (Guyer, 2003). Apart from this, economical support given by developed countries to those who were involved in belic conflicts is also able to indirectly affect the everyday expenses of citizens (Pearse, 2021). But it is known and well-studied that in order to gain back the prosperity of a country after conflict, financial aid from other governments or NGOs is crucial. Without it, it is difficult for the country to recover economic stability, fix damaged infrastructure, and overall gain back peace and stability. "Donor money and advice is at the heart of facilitating rapid post-war recovery" (Haughton, n.d.).

Throughout the whole human existence, belic conflicts have always been known for the seeking of power and control, where "Death, injury, sexual violence, malnutrition, illness, and disability are some of the most threatening physical consequences of war." (Amrita Rathi, n.d). Although physical consequences are serious, there are more consequences such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety that are classified into emotional consequences. Among the belic conflicts that have occurred throughout history, the most known are the World Wars. There have only been two of this kind, but these ones are different from the rest. World Wars have the

most powerful technology of each country dedicated to the army, creating mechanized warfare, this term refers to “the use of advanced machines in war” (Sullivan, 2022).

World wars are so dangerous and destructive that World War I was called “the war to end all wars”, but then a new conflict appeared, the agreements to the end of the World War, which did not solve most of the problems of the world, leading directly to the next World War. The agreements and solutions proposed are one of the most important things to prevent more conflicts, since not taking into account all nations involved has led to nonconformity, new ideologies, and chaos. Notice that solutions and proposals do not benefit each nation precisely, in some cases, some nations have needed to quit some privileges for the benefit of the majority (Guyer, C. G., 2003). Some nations needed to be sanctioned or limited if the best solution required it. It is important to remember that some sanctions lead to economic depression, nonconformity of the sanctioned nations, and aggressive behavior towards other nations, leading to more chaos and new solutions.

Just as in World Wars, all armed conflicts lead to destruction. The most important part is not the winning nation, but how the other nations will receive support from other nations, especially the developed ones. This is why treaties must be done in order to firstly prevent belic conflicts, and secondly find functioning systems that are able to bring aid to countries affected by conflict, without the donating countries having the backlash of their generosity towards their own economical funds and the lifestyles of their citizens.

### *III. CURRENT SITUATION*

Belic conflicts are aspects that can be placed in different categories. Its characteristics can give it a name and know the type of consequences it will have upon the country’s infrastructure and the well-being of its citizens. What all armed conflicts have in common is the use of violence from two subjects against each other for the retrieval of a certain purpose.

Currently, there are several ongoing Belic conflicts that are strongly affecting different countries. Some current armed conflicts that their violence creates an indirect impact on the international community are the conflict in Afghanistan, the armed

conflict in Darfur located in Sudan, the Kivu conflict in Congo, the Russian invasion in Ukraine, and many others (Ongoing Wars and Conflicts in the World Today, n.d.).

Social flaws like drug cartels are another factor that can create conflict. A strong conflict occurring today is the Mexican Drug War. This conflict began in 2006, and it is known to have the highest death rate of current conflicts. It is known that this conflict has produced over 50,000 deaths (Ongoing Wars and Conflicts in the World Today, n.d.).

Another conflict that doesn't fit in the regular idea of an armed conflict but has the effects of one is the Cold War. This is a conflict that involved the government of the United States and the former Soviet Union. The difference between this type of conflict and the regular ideal of belic conflict is that they do not negatively affect citizens due to collateral damage, but they involve direct violence, for the case of the Mexican Drug War, or cause downfalls in the economy, like in the Cold War.

Armed conflict is statistically more likely to happen in developing countries, but still, economically stable countries have a strong role when it comes to belic conflicts. "Since the end of World War II, developed countries have frequently intervened in poorer countries abroad by arguing that force is sometimes necessary to bring about a more orderly or stable society" (The Role of Developed Countries in War and Conflict, n.d.). This has its contradictions in the sense that developed countries in several cases are the ones that cause conflict in damaged zones, and affect the economical and structural state of developing countries. A high percentage of the GDP goes to military instruments and machinery, which affects the economy of the country.

Another important aspect to cover is the latest armed conflicts. Around the globe, many armed conflicts are taking place, and although the one involving Ukraine is the one that is the most known, others are taking place or have ended already. Among these armed conflicts, the Afghan armed conflict that had an end in August of 2021 is included, although violence decreased, many other problems are still present, such as hunger, which threatens the life of many citizens, and children included (Diario Sevilla, 2022).

Another important concept about the current situation is what nations are actually doing in order to solve the issue. The UN counts on a variety of programs in

order to help affected countries, such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “UN system entities most responsible for providing emergency relief. A coordinated, system-wide approach to humanitarian relief is essential in providing assistance quickly and efficiently to those in need” (United Nations, 2022).

Another program known is the UN Refugee Agency, which emerged in the wake of WWII, to help Europeans displaced by that conflict. Afterward, the General Assembly created the United Nations Relief and Works Agency of Palestine Refugees in the Near East, where its main goal is to “provide emergency relief to some 750,000 Palestine refugees, who had lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Today, some 5 million Palestine refugees are eligible for UNRWA services” (United Nations, 2020).

Although many programs were created, the global goal of peace, justice, and strong institutions are still in rough conditions. That is due to some nations seeming to be benefited indirectly from the ongoing conflicts, either economically or militarily, these nations keep a neutral posture or help with the minimum support because of the treaties. But government leaders really do not show any kind of interest in supporting the involved nations, because the more belic conflicts last, in some cases, the more economical and power-type benefits other nations are able to obtain.

#### *IV. UN ACTIONS*

One of the primary purposes of the United Nations is to prevent future belic conflicts and take actions to deal with the consequences of past armed conflicts. Among the organs that are part of it, this organization has created different strategies to solve this problem in a more sustainable manner. A great example of this is The Rule Of Law, which states that: “Establishing respect for the rule of law is fundamental to achieving a durable peace in the aftermath of conflict, to the effective protection of human rights, and to sustained economic progress and development” (Peace and Security, n.d.). The effect of this is seen both in state and international law reinforcement, seeking the existence of respect, making nations reduce the probability of suffering from war. With the support of large organs like the General Assembly and the Security Council, this project is able to be so impactful and efficient.

Peacebuilding is another action made by the United Nations. What is meant by this is that the organs that are part of it create opportunities where support can be given to war-torn areas, in order to restore their sovereignty and prevent armed conflict from happening once more. “Peacebuilding requires sustained international support for national efforts across the broadest range of activities” (Peace and Security, n.d.). This type of action is very impactful in the sense that it builds international nets of help where developed countries can help nations affected by armed conflict. This is needed in order to keep fighting against violence and its negative effect on society. There are numerous preventive actions that the UN does to solve this issue. The United Nations does this because it helps to tackle the problem from the root and end with belic conflicts entirely. Another perspective and point of view of the United Nations is that in order to achieve peace and help countries from belic conflicts, one of the best solutions is to prevent it. That is why the UN believes in preventive diplomacy, where “Early warning is an essential component of prevention, and the United Nations carefully monitors developments around the world to detect threats to international peace and security, thereby enabling the Security Council and the Secretary-General to carry out preventive action. Envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General are engaged in mediation and preventive diplomacy throughout the world. In some trouble spots, the mere presence of a skilled envoy can prevent the escalation of tension. These envoys often cooperate with regional organizations” (United Nations, 2022).

Another preventive measurement is the preventive disarmament, which means to reduce the military power of a nation due to the fact that in order to achieve peace, weapons should never be an option. “Demobilizing combat forces, as well as collecting and destroying their weapons as part of an overall peace agreement. Destroying yesterday’s weapons prevents their use in tomorrow’s wars” (United Nations, 2022).

Even though prevention is one of the most viable solutions, it is at the same time one of the hardest ones since it requires the responsibility and collaboration of all the truly concerned ones. In fact, “The duty to prevent and halt genocide and mass atrocities lies first and foremost with the State, but the international community has a role that cannot be blocked by the invocation of sovereignty. Sovereignty no longer exclusively protects States from foreign interference; it is a charge of responsibility where States are accountable for the welfare of their people” (United Nations, 2022).

The United Nations has also created strategic plans to raise awareness, as mentioned, to prevent the concerned ones from acting and collaborating. According to the United Nations itself, “The Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide acts as a catalyst to raise awareness of the causes and dynamics of genocide, to alert relevant actors where there is a risk of genocide, and to advocate and mobilize for appropriate action. The Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect leads the conceptual, political, institutional, and operational development of the Responsibility to Protect. The efforts of their Office include alerting relevant actors to the risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, enhancing the capacity of the United Nations to prevent these crimes, including their incitement” (United Nations, 2022).

## *V. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS*

Belic conflicts are an issue that has powerful negative consequences on the economy, national infrastructure, and overall the sovereignty of nations around the world. Due to the strong negative impact this issue has, the UN has taken action in order to combat it. So short, medium and long-term solutions are in the process of being formulated and implemented. After this issue has been strongly studied and discussed among the members of the Economic and Social Council, the following solutions have been developed:

01. The promotion of strategies to tackle social flaws that lead to belic conflicts by using inclusive development to diminish the probability of war (Stewart, 2002).

- a. Studies show that armed conflicts tend to happen due to cultural, religious, economical, and overall differences between groups. “Wars in developing countries have heavy human, economic, and social costs and are a major cause of poverty and underdevelopment” (Stewart,2002). This creates an ongoing cycle of economic incommmodity and issues in a country. This is why programs shall be created to diminish the problem from its root by preventing belic conflict. This way the assessment of the economical influence of developed countries in war-torn areas shall not be a crucial problem to solve.

- b. In order to achieve a peacebuilding strategy, there are different methods that can be performed to achieve tackling certain goals. “It may take the form of mediation, conciliation or negotiation” (Peace and security, n.d.). Studied programs and solutions must be created using mediation in order to promote diplomacy and seek to end the causes of belic conflict, especially in developing countries.
02. Ensure a more extensive process of international attention on post-conflict countries to solve the negative effects a country has on another nation's infrastructure and economic state (Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery, n.d.)
- a. Help should be given to war-torn areas in the sense that complete attentive processes have to be performed in order to control the social environment that the nation is at after the conflict, seek the advice and aid of governments, and give the amount needed for economic funds for the rising back of the nation’s infrastructure and economical state.
- b. Special attention shall be given to the safety of children, disabled individuals, women, and overall minority groups that could be endangered due to the situation. “Women in war-torn societies can face specific and devastating forms of sexual violence” (Peace and security, n.d.). Furthermore, the right measures shall be taken to maintain the process of peacebuilding and seek the protection of all individuals.
03. Create stronger aid from governing UN members by seeking the formation of funding programs in order to aid war-torn areas that are in need of economical aid (Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Recovery, n.d.)
- a. Developed countries apart from donating economic funds to war-torn areas are able to help by “demining operations, demobilizing former combatants, providing advisory services and supporting armed forces and police forces' ' (Post-conflict reconstruction, n.d.). The aiding

country is also able to give shelter to the refugees in need. A strong program of help in the UN shall be created by connecting its members to help the ones in need.

- b. A percentage of the GDP of a country, that is willing to help and won't negatively affect the economic well-being of its states, shall be given to the country in need for it to recover from the negative consequences of Belic conflict and maintain a pace where poverty won't affect how well it recuperates.

04. In order to prevent belic conflict from arising, create disarmament and educational programs with the purpose of helping nations gain back national identity and security, building more protected environments.

- a. Nations that are predisposed to suffer from belic conflicts and nations that were exposed to belic conflicts previously should be given the resources to receive aid for their internal instability and be given the measures to prevent armed conflict. "To improve security, it is vital to address problems within the organizations that are responsible for it at the national level – the army, the police, and the judiciary" (Post-conflict reconstruction, n.d.).

- b. Disarmament is a strong long-term solution because it seeks the prevention of future conflict. This solution is a reinforcement of past solutions of ECOSOC. Developed countries are able to give aid to war-torn areas to help strengthen security and stability in their countries.

## ***VI. COUNTRIES INVOLVED***

### **1. United States of America**

The United States of America has always focused on the recovery and reconstruction of its allies. And apart from that, it is important to recognize the state of this nation on military forces and weapon technological advances. 3.7%

of the GDP of the US goes to military expenditures, making it the second best nation in having a good military force (Military expenditure (% of GDP) United States, 2020). In 1948, the USA created the Marshall Plan, a program providing aid to Western Europe after the destruction of WWII. The plan consisted in providing more than 15 billion dollars to help finance the rebuilding of the continent, it also had the objective to increase the commerce between those countries and the USA. This nation is a strong member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, an international military alliance that has the purpose to guarantee safety and protection to the governments that are part of it.

## 2. Russian Federation

Due to the current situation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, Russia is one of the nations that is only making the situation worse. The Russian Federation aims to get total control over Ukraine, by letting the Russian military forces to gain as much territory as possible. This armed conflict has caused the loss of around 15 thousand Ukrainian soldiers and the amount is still increasing with each day. Apart from this recent issue, Russia throughout diplomatic history has had a strong role in armed conflicts. The Russian Federation is known for having the best military force of all nations. And apart from that, it is statistically known that Russia's nominal GDP is at \$1.48 trillion. Making it an economically stable country (McFarlane, 2022).

## 3. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom is one of many nations that is providing support to war-torn areas. The UK has provided 220 million dollars for humanitarian assistance. It provided 134 aircraft and 5 trucks fully loaded with medical equipment. This refers to the aid that has been given to nations that have been affected by belic conflicts in order to restore their sovereignty. In the case of the current conflict that is occurring in Europe regarding Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America, the UK has created packs to treat over 220,000 Ukrainian patients and over 380,000 packs of medicine.

The United Kingdom has successfully donated 17 trucks of food and water, and over 500 portable generators to support access to essential services including hospitals and shelters. As well as taking 17 children with cancer to the UK with their whole families for treatment. This nation is a great example of strong aid by giving the right resources that a country needs to recover from conflict. Throughout history, it was seen that the UK was a nation that created conflict and invaded countries, but its modern mandate is different from the last century.

#### 4. Ukraine

Ukraine is one of the nations that currently are in need due to the effect of armed conflict. Russia's large-scale assault on Ukraine has threatened human enforcement since WWII in order to build global peace through the international Rule of Law. Russia now controls a crescent Ukraine territory, that extends from around Ukraine's city of Kharkiv, to Kherson. Ukrainian troops have ceded most of Severodonetsk to the Russians.

So far, 5.3 million Ukrainians have left for neighboring countries. Ukrainian infrastructure is being destroyed, and many civilians are endangered. Studies show that 3,778 Ukrainian citizens have been killed due to the armed conflict (Ukraine: Civilian casualties as of 24:00 17 May 2022, 2022). Neighboring countries, and nations that have the right economical resources, have been able to help Ukraine find refuge to its citizens and provide them the right resources they need. When the conflict ends, support will be needed from other nations for the country to recover.

#### 5. Syrian Arab Republic

In March 2011, Syrians protested against high unemployment rates, corruption, and lack of political freedom; the Syrian government used violent forces to crush the dissent, and that's when opposite supporters too, up to weapons. The violence rapidly increased and the country descended into a civil war. The UN

has verified at least 350,000 casualties between March 2011 and March 2021. The US, UK, and France initially provided support for the rebel groups, but they prioritized non-lethal assistance in order to stop promoting their armed conflict. Syria is a nation that has been struggling with belic conflict for a large amount of time, and the help of other nations can help it restore its peace.

6. French Republic
7. People's Republic of China
8. Republic of Albania
9. Federative Republic of Brazil
10. Gabonese Republic
11. Republic of Ghana
12. Republic of India
13. Ireland
14. Republic of Kenya
15. United Mexican States
16. Kingdom of Norway
17. United Arab Emirates
18. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
19. Swiss Confederation
20. Belize
21. Federal Republic of Germany
22. State of Israel
23. Republic of South Sudan

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24. Republic of Iraq
25. Japan
26. Republic of Italy
27. Kingdom of The Netherlands
28. Federal Republic of Somalia

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