United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Promoting International Cooperation and Protecting the Rights of Displaced Persons from Russia and Ukraine

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I. INTRODUCTION

The High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR) was founded on December 14, 1950, in Geneva, Switzerland. UNHCR is dedicated to promoting international cooperation and protection of the rights of displaced persons from Russia and Ukraine. UNHCR has faced multiple crises on multiple continents and provides vital protection and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and stateless people, many of whom have nobody left to turn to. UNHCR works with governments and partners to advise, strengthen laws and national systems and help provide services. UNHCR as an organization constantly challenges how to become more flexible, effective and result-oriented with the help of this service, UNHCR ensures that displaced people can access documentation, education, work, and health care. (UNHCR, n.d.) UNHCR's operational environment through the years has seen a decreasing number of refugees, increased internal displacement, growing numbers and complexity of mixed migration movements, and a pressing need for reform across the humanitarian response system. (UNHCR, n.d.)

In May 1957, UNHCR protected Algerian refugees who had fled the War of Independence with France, UNHCR provided food, clothing and medical assistance to over 200,000 refugees in Tunisia and Morocco. The UNHCR has been working to improve asylum systems that are struggling with high volumes of refugees and operational challenges. Despite fewer applications during the COVID-19 pandemic, many systems faced reservations. Currently, UNHCR provides protection and humanitarian aid in Ukraine and neighboring countries, including emergency shelters, home repairs, cash assistance, and physiological support. They train local organizations to help displaced families and have strengthened health services and promoted equal healthcare access for asylum-seekers. (UK for UNHCR, n.d.) As the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 took place, a staggering 5.7 million Ukrainians fled their homeland, marking the fastest refugee exodus since the chaos of World War II chaos. This mass displacement is emblematic of a wider global crisis, as by the end of the year, the number of forcibly displaced people is set to surpass 100 million, which equates to approximately1 in every 74 people on the planet. (UNHCR, n.d.)

Entering the third year of the Ukraine war, 14.6 million people need humanitarian aid, including 3.7 million displaced internally and 5.9 million refugees across Europe, many of whom hope to eventually return but face significant challenges. The EU extended the Temporary Protection Directive to March 2025, supporting refugees who face growing hardships, particularly vulnerable groups. UNHCR is appealing for $993.3 million, with $599 million for Ukraine, to provide life-saving aid and support economic recovery, aiming to assist 2.7 million people. In Europe, $394.3 million is needed to support 700,000 refugees, focusing on integrating them into national systems and prioritizing protection against gender-based violence and child protection, with special attention to Moldova. (UNHCR, n.d.)

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has increased tensions between Moscow and NATO, affecting the entire world. Russia seeks full control over Ukraine, which is important to it's stability and strategic interests and the increasing annexation of NATO complicates and forces to it's borders, worsening the situation and posing an unacceptable security threat to Russia. The core issue extends beyond the Russia-Ukraine conflict to the broader geopolitical struggle between Russia and NATO-USA. The document examines various factors influencing the conflict, including geography, the Russian language presence, territorial claims over Crimea and the Black Sea, and economic interests in gas, oil, and cereals. It also explores the geopolitical strategies and political-military tactics of Russia and the United States in the region, concluding with potential short- and medium-term scenarios for the conflict's development. (Oropeza, 2022)

The displacement of people from Russia and Ukraine is vital due to the ongoing conflict's global impact. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, driven by security concerns over NATO's expansion, has caused significant human displacement. This issue reflects broader geopolitical tensions between Russia, NATO, and the US, affecting global stability and international relations. Addressing this discussion will highlight the need for international cooperation, humanitarian response, and conflict resolution efforts.

II. HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM

Throughout recent history, Russia and Ukraine have been in tense relations ever since the Soviet Union dissolved and Ukraine asked for independence from Russia to free itself from the instability the countries had been experiencing. It all goes back to 1991, specifically on December 1, when Ukraine voted for the independence of its country in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Ukrainian people strongly supported the idea of becoming a sovereign state. Ukraine represents the second-largest European country by land mass and has an ethnic Russian population.

In the 20th century, Crimea experienced brief independence efforts, Soviet control, Nazi occupation, and brutal deportations of Crimean Tatars in 1944. In 1954, the Soviet Union transferred Crimea to Ukraine for economic reasons. Despite Russian claims, Crimea has a complex history with significant periods under different rulers, and the Crimean Tatars faced severe persecution, only returning in large numbers after the Soviet Union's collapse. (Crimean Plataform, n.d.)

Ukraine's first act of independence dates back to December 5, 1994, when the leaders of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation met in Budapest, Hungary, to discuss and guarantee Ukraine's security in connection with its accession to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapons state. The Budapest Memorandum, signed after lengthy negotiations, led to Ukraine agreeing to give up the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, inherited from the dissolved Soviet Union, and transfer all nuclear warheads to Russia for dismantling. The signatories committed to respecting Ukraine's territorial integrity and borders and abstaining from using or threatening military force. (Bunn, 2020) All the signatories guaranteed Ukraine's sovereignty and its rights to its territory.

On November 21, Ukrainians celebrate the Day of Dignity and Freedom, commemorating the 2004 Orange Revolution and the 2014 Euromaidan Revolution. These events are pivotal in Ukraine's post-Soviet history, although their regional impact is often underrecognized. The Orange Revolution in 2004 was a peaceful protest that prevented Kremlin-backed Viktor Yanukovych from fraudulently winning the presidency, leading to the

election of reformist Viktor Yushchenko. Despite political challenges, the revolution ended government censorship and fostered a freer press, significantly shaping Ukraine's national identity and democratic values. This revolution influenced Russian policy, leading to increased nationalism and confrontation with the West. Putin's response included launching Russia Today TV and cracking down on domestic opposition to prevent similar uprisings. The Orange Revolution set the stage for ongoing geopolitical tensions, highlighting its enduring significance in shaping Eastern European dynamics and Russia's foreign policy. (Dickinson, 2020)

Ukraine's integration to NATO

At a summit in Bucharest on April 3, 2008, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) declared that Ukraine and Georgia would join the U.S. defense alliance. (Gray, 2023) This decision reflected a compromise within NATO, in which the US pushed for their inclusion but France and Germany were concerned about opposing Russia. The declaration warned Moscow of the potential of these former Soviet governments joining NATO, but it did not provide them with the immediate assurance that membership provides. The Bucharest summit is regularly referred to concerning Ukraine's NATO ambitions, particularly as President Volodymyr Zelenskiy argues for a clear road to membership. The summit results offer a reminder of the difficulties and potential consequences of NATO's obligations. It emphasizes the necessity for NATO to go "beyond Bucharest" by issuing more clear statements and plans for Ukraine's membership. As NATO members meet in Vilnius, the differences from Bucharest return. Eastern European nations that have suffered Soviet authority are pushing for a clear roadmap for Ukraine's NATO membership, but the United States and Germany are concerned. The Vilnius summit is expected to result in another compromise, reflecting the long-term impact of the Bucharest summit on NATO's internal dynamics and stance to Ukraine. (Gray, 2023) The Bucharest summit's declared that Ukraine and Georgia will join NATO without a defined strategy on guaranteed defense generated long-term geopolitical confusion. This has affected Russia's aggressive actions and continues to drive NATO's strategy toward Ukraine.

Russia's Annexation of Crimea

In late February 2014, after the Maidan Revolution, Ukraine's President Yanukovych fled to Russia, and new leaders took charge, aiming to align Ukraine more closely with Europe.

Almost immediately, armed men without any insignia, later revealed to be Russian soldiers, began taking over key locations in Crimea. The Ukrainian military in Crimea, on a big scale inactivity, waited for a Russian provocation as Western allies advised control. By early March, Russian troops had complete dominance over Crimea. The Crimean Supreme Council then voted to join Russia and programmed a greatly biased referendum for March 16. The chaotic vote, lacking credible international failure, reported a suspiciously high turnout, with 96.7% in favor of joining Russia, which Putin clarified shortly after. Russia claimed historical ties and a majority Russian-speaking population to justify the annexation, but this move violated multiple international agreements, including the UN Charter. Domestically, Putin capitalized on nationalism to boost his popularity amid economic struggles. Since the annexation, Crimea has seen significant demographic changes, with many Ukranian people and Crimean Tatars leaving and a large number of Russians moving in. Russia has invested heavily in the region's infrastructure, yet the economic benefits have fallen short of expectations. Despite the severe outlook, history shows that geopolitical landscapes can change unexpectedly, much like the eventual independence of the Baltic states from the Soviet Union. (Pifer, 2020)

(Al Jazeera, 2024)

Recognition of Independence

On February 21, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized the independence of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) in eastern Ukraine. In a televised speech, he announced plans for aid agreements with these regions, which sparked concerns about a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine. Putin directed the Defense Ministry to deploy troops for what was described as peacekeeping operations. This move heightened tensions between Russia and Western nations. Leaders such as German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron expressed disappointment, while U.S. President Joe Biden discussed the situation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and announced new sanctions targeting the breakaway regions. NATO and the European Union condemned Russia's actions, citing violations of international law and the Minsk Agreements. The recognition followed years of conflict in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists have clashed with Ukrainian forces since 2014. Despite Putin's

assurances of Russian historical ties to Ukraine, Western countries remained wary, fearing that Russia's actions could serve as a pretext for a full-scale invasion. Russia's military buildup near Ukraine's borders further exacerbated these fears, with Western leaders calling for de-escalation and diplomacy. (Deutsche Welle, 2022)

Russian invasion of Ukraine

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the largest in Europe since World War II, resulting in thousands of deaths and millions of refugees. Despite prior warnings from U.S. intelligence, the attack shocked the world and underscored President Vladimir Putin's long-standing ambitions to reassert control over former Soviet territories. This invasion followed Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and support for separatist regions in eastern Ukraine, highlighting a consistent strategy of using military force and political subversion. Western reluctance to confront Russia decisively in the past, such as during the 2008 aggression in Georgia and the 2014 annexation of Crimea, emboldened Putin. The argument that NATO's expansion provoked Russia, popularized by political scientist John Mearsheimer, shifts the blame away from Russia and overlooks the sovereignty and aspirations of Eastern European countries. This perspective has been criticized for enabling Russia's narrative and downplaying the free will of nations like Ukraine and Georgia, which have sought integration with Western institutions. The West's response to the invasion has been swift and unified, with the EU, NATO, and the U.S. imposing severe economic sanctions on Russia, including its removal from the SWIFT banking system. These measures aim to cripple the Russian economy and pressure Putin to withdraw. However, the long-term effectiveness of these sanctions remains uncertain. Ukraine faces a dire humanitarian crisis, and its ability to sustain resistance depends on continued Western support. The heroism of Ukrainian society has garnered global admiration, but they need ongoing military aid and humanitarian assistance. The international community's resolve to support Ukraine is crucial in determining the outcome of this conflict and the future stability of Europe. (Janadze, 2022.)
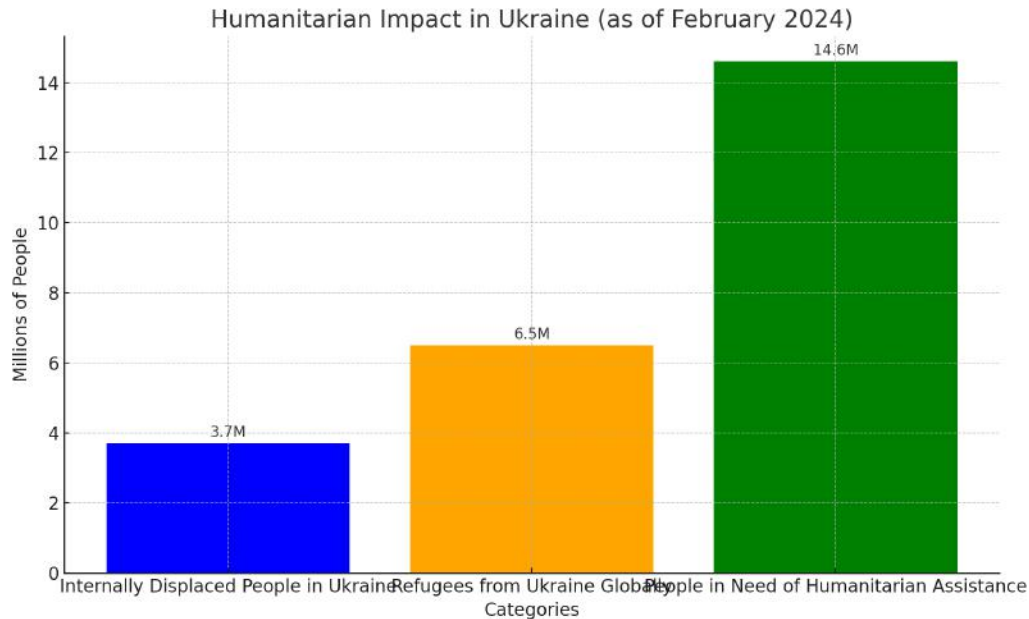
Russia's long-standing ambitions to reassert control over former Soviet territories have led to significant conflict, culminating in the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This invasion, driven by historical tensions and geopolitical maneuvers, has resulted in

widespread devastation and a severe humanitarian crisis. The strategic ambiguity had long-term implications. It placed Ukraine in a "NATO waiting room" without the benefits of NATO membership, which some analysts believe encouraged Russia. Shortly after the conference, Russia annexed Crimea and backed separatist forces in eastern Ukraine. These moves demonstrated Russia's hostility toward NATO expansion and highlighted the hazards of the summit's ambiguous promises . The international community's response, marked by economic sanctions and support for Ukraine, remains crucial in shaping the future stability of the region. Understanding these dynamics is essential as we move forward to address the ongoing conflict and its broader implications.

III. *CURRENT SITUATION*

The full-scale war in Ukraine had its starting point on February 24, 2022, after the Russian Federation's invasion. An estimated 3.7 million people have been taken from their homes and have been forced to flee, and almost another 6.5 million moved and sought protection in neighboring countries such as Poland, Hungary, Moldova, or other countries worldwide. Missile and rocket attacks have caused death on a large scale, destruction of homes, businesses, and seriously damaging infrastructure all across Ukraine. (UNHCR, n.d.) It rapidly became the second world's fastest-growing displacement situation since World War II. More than a quarter of the population of Ukraine fled within the first two months since the beginning of the war. By early 2023, almost 19 million people, which is about half of Ukraine's population, had to leave their homes because of the war with Russia. About 5.3 million people moved within Ukraine, while more than 8.1 million went to Europe as refugees. Also, around 5.6 million people who had left either Ukraine or their homes within Ukraine have returned, but it's uncertain if they can stay because the war is still going on. The conflict is still causing many people to leave, with over 640,000 people becoming displaced just between late November 2022 and late January 2023. (Mooney, n.d.)

Humanitarian Impact in Ukraine (as of February 2024)

- 3.7 million: Internally Displaced People in Ukraine
- 6.5 million: Refugees from Ukraine Globally
- 14.6 million: People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

Situation on displacement

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has caused the largest forced migration in Europe since World War II, displacing nearly one-third of Ukraine's population. Around 10 million Ukrainians are unable to return home, with 4 million internally displaced and over 6 million refugees abroad. Germany now hosts the most Ukrainian refugees in Europe, surpassing Poland, which initially received the highest number. Estonia, Moldova, and Montenegro have the highest per capita refugee populations. Meanwhile, significant numbers of Ukrainians have sought refuge in Canada and the USA, facilitated by special visa programs.

The situation for Ukrainian refugees in Russia remains uncertain, with estimates of around 1.2 million displaced individuals amid reports of forced relocations and deportations. Over 4.6 million refugees have returned to Ukraine, but the country still faces significant internal displacement, particularly from conflict-affected regions like Kharkiv and Donetsk. As Europe and North America continue to address this crisis, the focus remains on providing immediate humanitarian aid and planning for long-term stability and reconstruction in Ukraine. (Migration

Awareness, 2024) Many countries within NATO including the United States and members of the European Union have supported Ukraine in this process. Giving medical and economical aid.

Principle 6(1) of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement asserts that every individual has the right to protection against arbitrary displacement from their home or habitual residence. This principle is supported by the Council of Europe's declarations and the European Convention on Human Rights, which prohibit arbitrary displacement. In armed conflict, displacement is only permissible for the security of civilians or imperative military reasons, a rule grounded in international humanitarian law. Violating this can constitute a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and a war crime. Displaced civilians must be provided with satisfactory shelter, hygiene, health, safety, and nutrition, and family members should not be separated.

The principle of preventing and mitigating displacement also includes a duty to avoid actions that indirectly cause displacement, such as terrorizing civilian populations or conducting indiscriminate attacks. International humanitarian law emphasizes that even in conflict, civilians should lead as normal a life as possible, and all actors must respect their rights to prevent conditions leading to displacement. The deportation or forcible transfer of populations without lawful grounds is a crime against humanity, and the forcible transfer of children with the intent to destroy a group constitutes genocide. The International Criminal Court's arrest warrants for Russian officials for the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children highlight the ongoing violations and emphasize the need for public awareness to prevent further crimes. (Mooney, n.d.)

(ODP, 2024)

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has become the second-largest displacement situation since World War II. The conflict has caused a high number of casualties and massive destruction of homes and businesses, including significant destruction of Ukrainian infrastructure, which has further compounded the crisis of displaced persons. This situation has been escalated by previous displacement problems resulting from Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and associated with military conflict in eastern Ukraine, leading around 3 million people forced to leave their homes to flee; around 6 million people sought protection in neighboring countries; this represents the largest forced migration in Europe since 1939. Germany has become the European country hosting the most Ukrainian refugees, surpassing Poland, which initially received the largest number. Estonia, Moldova, and Montenegro host the largest refugee population in terms of population per capita.

International agencies, including NATO and the European Union, have mobilized to support Ukraine with medical, financial, and logistical assistance, recognizing the importance of respecting the principles set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and international humanitarian law, which emphasize the protection of civilians. As the crisis persists, it is critical that the international community provide sustained humanitarian assistance and develop long-term plans for the stability and recovery of Ukraine.

IV.   UN ACTIONS

UNHCR is intensifying its efforts to reach more remote areas in the east and south of Ukraine, regions often impacted the most by the ongoing conflict. These efforts include providing cash and in-kind aid to Ukrainians, distributing emergency shelter repair kits for damaged homes, conducting housing repairs, and offering legal support and psychological

counseling to those in need (UNHCR, n.d.). During crises, UNHCR demonstrates its ability to rapidly deploy skilled staff and essential relief materials worldwide, often managing multiple crises simultaneously. Thanks to pledged contributions, UNHCR can mobilize within 72 hours of a critical situation to provide protection and emergency relief. This rapid response capability ensures that aid reaches affected populations quickly, minimizing the immediate impact of the crisis.

UNHCR works closely with partners, such as the USA, to ensure refugees receive basic necessities like food, water, shelter, and medical care. They also provide additional protection for vulnerable populations, including responses to sexual abuse. This partnership facilitates the distribution of vital assistance, such as setting up tent camps, distributing building supplies, and providing financial support to those living in urban areas. Moreover, to meet the fundamental needs of refugees, UNHCR provides essentials such as blankets, sleeping mats, clothes, shoes, soap, kitchen sets, heaters, solar lamps, and mosquito nets. Support for displaced persons includes the establishment of 39 "Blue Dots" across eight countries. These safe spaces are equipped with information, counseling, mental health support, and protection services for refugees. The initiative aims to create a network of support centers that can cater to the diverse needs of displaced individuals and families, offering them stability amid chaos. UNHCR launched a $4.2 billion appeal for 2024 to continue supporting the most vulnerable individuals, with the goal of reaching 8.5 million people with essential aid. (UN News, 2024) This appeal underscores the scale of the crisis and the need for sustained international support to meet the ongoing humanitarian needs.

In partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF has established facilities to provide mental health and psychosocial support, particularly targeting women and children who are at high risk of exploitation and violence (Help Refugees). These facilities offer a critical lifeline for affected families, ensuring they have access to necessary psychological support and protection services. Additionally, UNICEF has been mapping the educational needs of Ukrainian refugees and providing the necessary resources and support to ensure the continuity of education for displaced children. This effort is vital in maintaining a sense of normalcy for children and ensuring their right to education is upheld even in times of crisis (UN Foundation, n.d.). The World Food Programme (WFP) plays a crucial role in providing emergency food assistance to families

affected by the conflict. This assistance includes cash, vouchers, and ready-to-eat meals, ensuring that families have access to sufficient food despite the disruptions caused by the war (UN Foundation, n.d.). WFP's efforts help alleviate immediate hunger and provide a degree of food security to affected populations. The World Health Organization (WHO) has established an operations hub in Poland, from which it deploys emergency medical teams and supplies to various Ukrainian cities. This includes trauma kits containing surgical equipment and antiseptics necessary for treating wounded individuals. WHO's medical support is critical in addressing the health needs of those affected by the conflict and providing lifesaving care and medical supplies (UN Foundation, n.d.). The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) leads the coordination of the humanitarian response across the UN system. OCHA's role is to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of services and aid to those in need, overcome logistical challenges, and ensure that resources are directed to where they are most needed. This coordination is essential in managing the complex humanitarian landscape and ensuring a coherent response to the crisis (UN Foundation, n.d.).

Through these multifaceted efforts, the UN and its agencies strive to address the immediate and long-term needs of those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Their work encompasses emergency relief, protection, support for basic needs, and coordination of international aid efforts, reflecting a comprehensive approach to humanitarian assistance.

V. *POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS*

The refugee crisis affecting Ukraine and Russia caused widespread alarm in neighboring countries due to its significant and diverse consequences. The huge number of refugees challenges healthcare systems and economic resources, demands significant investment to provide shelter, food, and education, and fuels social and political conflicts over competition for jobs and resources. In addition, education institutions must adjust to accommodate refugee children, and local governments have to ensure the safety and protection of refugees from exploitation and abuse. This scenario necessitates effective international cooperation and solutions, financial help, and support for both refugees and host communities.

1. **Implementing Inclusive Integration and Human Rights Protection Policies**

    a. It is critical to develop integration strategies that promote refugees' economic and social integration in host countries. These policies should prioritize human rights, ensuring that refugees have access to essential services and economic possibilities while also protecting them from discrimination and exploitation. Effective integration not only helps refugees reconstruct their lives, but it also benefits local communities by encouraging diversity and economic growth.

2. **Increasing International Cooperation and Financial Assistance**

    a. International cooperation is essential for properly addressing the refugee situation. Countries and international organizations must collaborate to distribute responsibilities and resources. This includes increased funding for agencies such as UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization (WHO), allowing them to maintain and expand their humanitarian relief work. Additional financial aid can assist host nations in strengthening their health, education, and social service infrastructures to handle the refugee influx while minimizing negative effects on the local population.

3. **Provide Education and Psychosocial support**

    a. Education is a critical aspect of UNHCR's effort to help displaced children. Temporary learning spaces are established in refugee camps and host communities to ensure that children continue their education. Scholarships and financial assistance guide refugee children to attend local schools and universities, promoting educational continuity and development.

4. **Provide Protection and legal assistance**

    a. Protection of vulnerable groups is a key aspect of UNHCR's response.
    Legal assistance is a key area in which UNHCR is involved. The organization offers legal assistance to help refugees understand and navigate asylum processes, ensuring their rights are respected. It also undertakes advocacy with governments

and international agencies to push for policies that protect the rights of displaced persons.

5. Diplomatic Efforts and Peace Negotiations

    a. Diplomatic initiatives comprise ongoing conversation and mediation among key international and local interested parties. This approach aims to resolve complicated political, territorial, and security challenges through peaceful negotiation and diplomacy. It entails promoting mutual understanding, implementing confidence-building measures, and establishing agreements that can pave the way for long-term peace and stability.

    b. The objective of peace negotiations is to construct strong frameworks and agreements that effectively end conflicts and create a safe environment for refugees to return and resettle. These negotiations are aided by international mediation efforts, which play an important role in bridging gaps between opposing parties and guaranteeing compliance with established terms. Peace discussions help to achieve long-term peace by resolving underlying frustrations and fostering inclusive conversation, as well as restoring confidence among communities and facilitating the reconstruction of lives and infrastructure in conflict zones.

Countries Involved

1. **Russian Federation**

Russia has taken steps to manage the refugee crisis by offering humanitarian aid and establishing temporary accommodation centers for displaced individuals. The government collaborates with international organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to ensure that refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) receive necessary support, including food, shelter, medical care, and legal assistance. Additionally, Russia has been involved in international dialogues and agreements to streamline refugee management and enhance cooperation with neighboring countries and international bodies. These comprehensive

measures aim not only to address immediate humanitarian needs but also to provide sustainable solutions for the integration and well-being of displaced individuals. Russia has taken steps to manage the refugee crisis by providing humanitarian aid and establishing temporary accommodation centers for displaced individuals. The government collaborates with international organizations like the IOM to ensure that the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are met, offering support in terms of food, shelter, medical care, and legal assistance. (IOM, n.d.)

2. **Ukraine**

Ukraine, which has faced internal displacement of 3.7 million people and 6.3 million seeking shelter abroad as a result of the war, has managed the issue in collaboration with the UNHCR. The fighting has badly disrupted services and ruined infrastructure, leaving millions dependent on humanitarian assistance. The Ukrainian government and UNHCR have provided urgent aid to 2.6 million people, including legal and psychosocial help, as well as cash assistance to nearly 900,000 newly displaced individuals. Over 575,000 individuals in frontline locations have received essential supplies, while 900,000 have received winterization assistance. Emergency shelter and housing assistance have also been provided. Ukraine implemented a comprehensive policy on internal displacement and compensation for housing damage in conjunction with the UNHCR and other partners. Additionally, the UNHCR launched the 2023 Regional Refugee Response Plan, coordinating efforts to assist millions of refugees across several countries, ensuring timely and effective humanitarian responses. (UNHCR, n.d.)

3. **United States**

"Following Russia's invasion, the United States of America, the European Union, and their allies showed outstanding international unity and coordinated efforts to address the Ukrainian refugee situation." Ambassador Julieta Noyes underlined this extraordinary assistance, highlighting its historical significance and crucial role in confronting Russia's aggression. In the United States, bipartisan consensus in Congress, as stated by Representative Gerry Connolly, demonstrates a shared commitment to assisting Ukrainian refugees and supporting their home

countries, such as Poland. Dr. Michael Koehler stressed the importance of ongoing humanitarian operations, emphasizing the necessity for complementarity between Western aid and Ukrainian relief initiatives in order to effectively manage the crisis over time. This collaborative approach not only addresses immediate needs but also supports host communities and mitigates the risk of anti-refugee sentiments, as highlighted by Ambassador Noyes. The ongoing challenge remains in maintaining this level of support and solidarity as the crisis evolves. (Wilson Center, 2023)
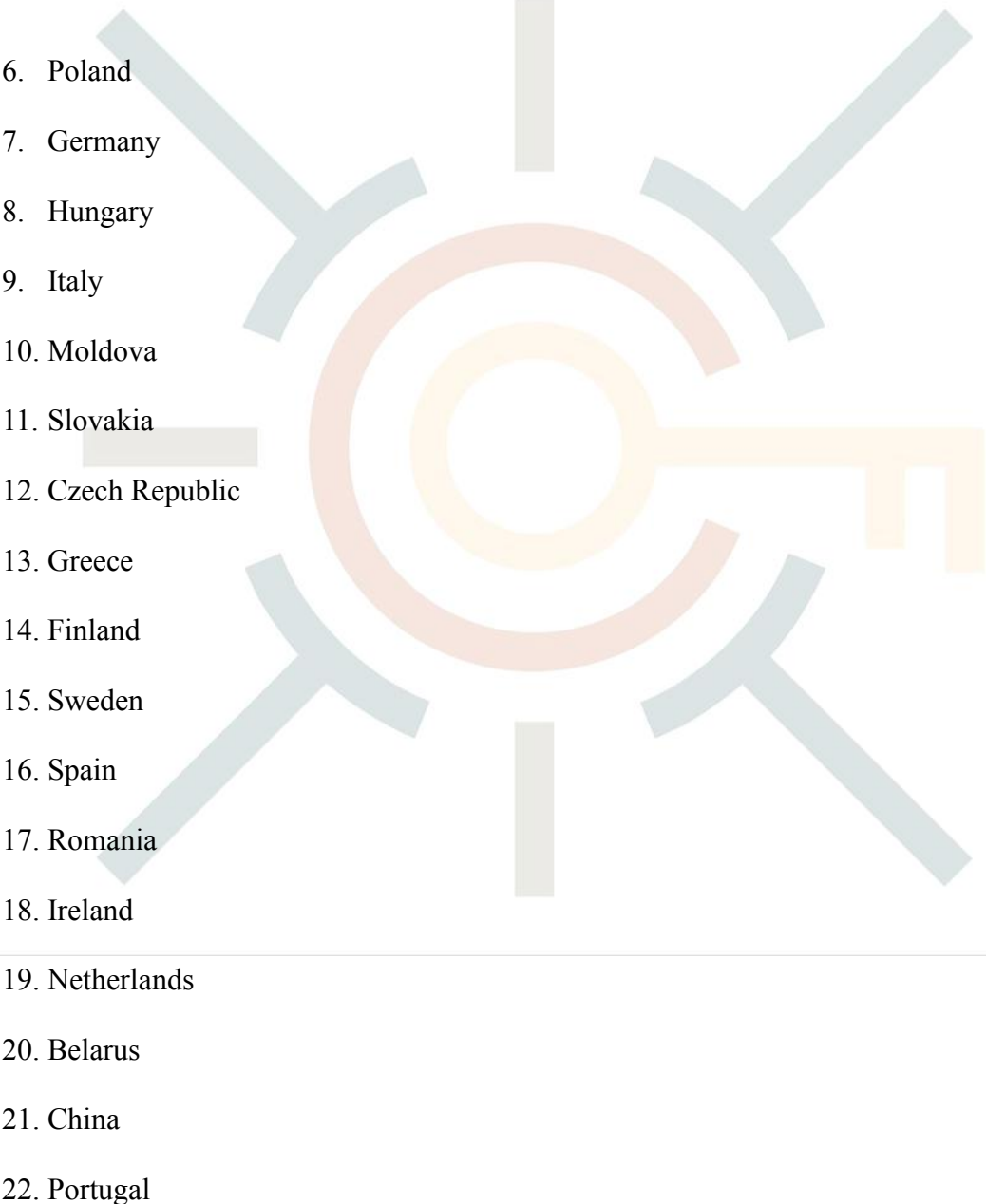
4. France

France has supported Ukraine since day one, and Russia, by fighting a war against a sovereign country, deliberately violated the UN charter principles. Supporting the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine does not simply mean helping free people. It also means defending international law and the security of the European continent. That is why, from the first day of the war, France and its partners have supported Ukraine and its people. Ever since the war broke out in Ukraine in late February 2022, France has taken in just under 115,000 people, mainly women and children. During the time of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, France helped with French military equipment delivered to Ukraine, which amounted to €2.615 billion. In addition, France contributed €1.2 billion more than €3.8 billion between February 24 2022 and December 31 2023. In addition to this financial effort, France has provided training to Ukrainian troops, with nearly 10,000 Ukraine soldiers trained by the French military in Poland and France.

5. England

Since Russia's invaded Ukraine in 2022, the United Kingdom has remained consistent in its humanitarian response, providing a total of £357 million to help reduce the crisis's impact. This commitment aims to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the violence, especially displaced people and vulnerable populations like women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The UK's assistance includes a wide range of efforts, from providing life-saving relief such as food, medicine, and critical supplies to ensuring access to healthcare and shelter through collaborations with UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the Red Cross.

Furthermore, the UK has prioritized building the resilience of host communities in countries such as Poland, Romania, and Moldova, which have taken on considerable burdens in hosting refugees. This includes funding initiatives to strengthen local infrastructure and services to better support both refugees and their host populations. The UK's advocacy efforts also extend to promoting adherence to International Humanitarian Law and advocating for unimpeded humanitarian access, essential for delivering aid effectively in conflict-affected areas. (UK GOV, 2024)

6. Poland

7. Germany

8. Hungary

9. Italy

10. Moldova

11. Slovakia

12. Czech Republic

13. Greece

14. Finland

15. Sweden

16. Spain

17. Romania

18. Ireland

19. Netherlands

20. Belarus

21. China

22. Portugal

23. Canada

24. Denmark

25. Estonia

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