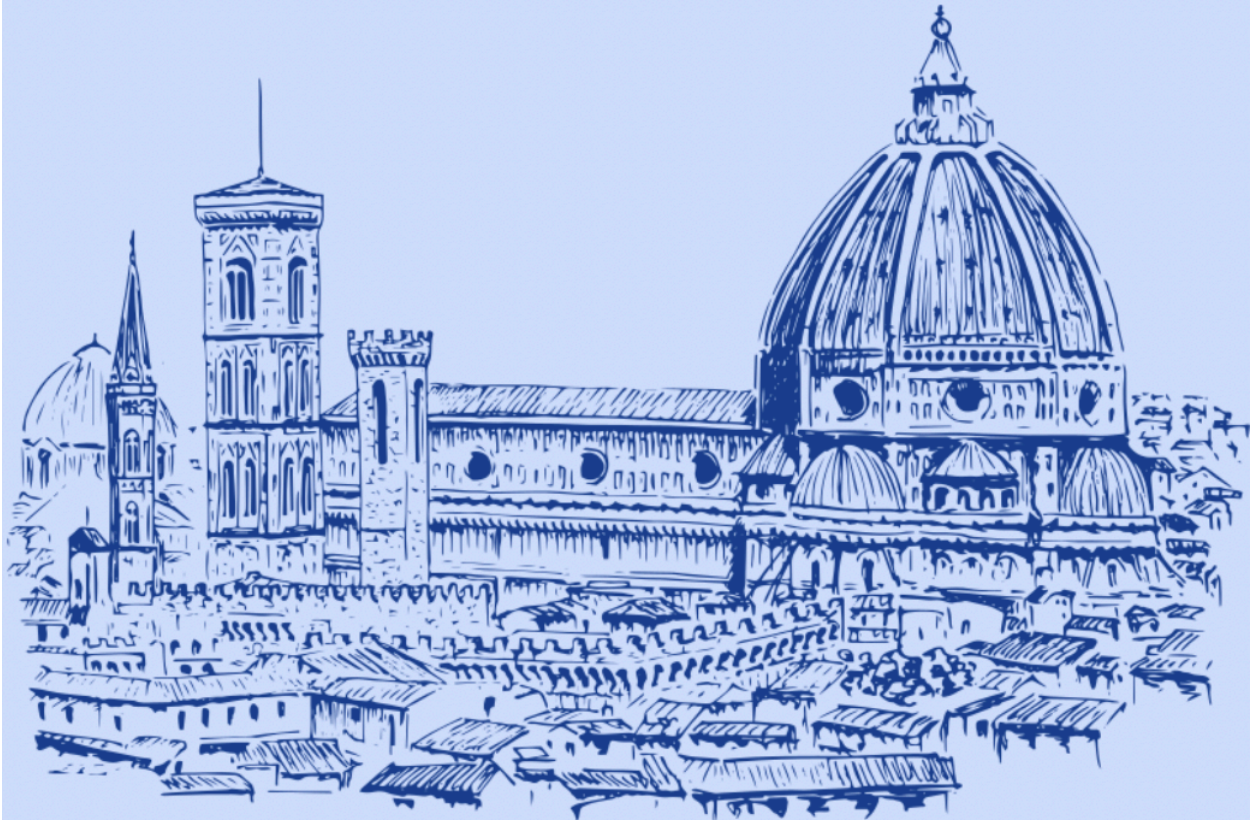


# RESEARCH GUIDE

## ECOSOC



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**Committee:** Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Topic:** (2) Discussing the issue of grain supply during the Russian-Ukrainian situation

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## **I. Introduction**

Global crop prices have been exponentially increasing since 2020, but the situation between Russia and Ukraine has aggravated both the financial and social repercussions. Ukraine, one of the main grain exporters, has been facing a 29% drop in production in 2022/2023, resulting in major food security concerns for populations all over the world. Before the war, around 90% of Ukraine's exports were transported by sea, but as the Russian military blocked Ukraine's Black Sea ports, exports decreased and prices increased. The EU then began implementing alternative routes, and the UN unblocked the ports allowing for a slight increase in the number of exports. This, however, did not last long, as Russia removed themselves from the 'Black Sea Grain Initiative' in June 2023. Up until that moment, 30% of Ukraine's agricultural exports were transported via the Black Sea, whereas 60% went overland. Because of this, prices resumed increasing and exports decreased once again. Spring crops were sown on nearly 17 million hectares by Ukrainian farmers in 2021. That exceeds the total area of Czechia and Austria put together. Nevertheless, farmers sowed 22% less in 2022 after the war began. The 2.8 million hectares of uncultivated land are nearly as big as Belgium.

## II. Definition of Key Terms

- a) **Grain Supply:** The availability and distribution of grains, essential for human consumption, animal feed, and industrial purposes.
- b) **Geopolitical Tensions:** Political conflicts and rivalries between nations or regions, often driven by territorial disputes, historical animosities, ideological differences, or strategic interests.
- c) **Export Restrictions:** Policies implemented by governments to control the quantity and transportation of goods, exported from their territories. Such restrictions may include quotas, tariffs, bans, or licensing requirements.
- d) **Food Security:** The condition in which all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle.
- e) **Trade Routes:** Pathways and networks used for the transportation of goods, including grains, between producing regions, transit countries, and importing markets. Trade routes may involve land, sea, or air transportation infrastructure.
- f) **Humanitarian Assistance:** Aid provided to alleviate suffering and meet basic needs, such as food, water, shelter, and medical care, in response to emergencies, conflicts, natural disasters, or other crises affecting vulnerable populations.

### **III. General Overview**

- a) Beyond merely territorial disputes and political rivalries, the situation between Russia and Ukraine has far-reaching implications. One important consideration is its effect on the world's grain supply. As they are major grain exporters, especially wheat, both Russia and Ukraine both make substantial contributions to the world's food security. But because of the fighting, trade routes, distribution systems, and agricultural output have been hampered, raising questions about the stability of the grain supply.

## **IV. Major Parties Involved and their Views**

### **a) Russia**

Russia is one of the biggest wheat exporters in the world and has significance in the world's grain markets. The goal of the Russian government is to keep control of the agricultural resources found on its soil, which includes the rich areas of eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Russia's geopolitical interests have shaped its policies regarding grain exports during the conflict; on occasion, restrictions have been put in place to put pressure on Ukraine and its allies including the United States, France, and Germany..

### **b) Ukraine**

Ukraine is still a major player in the world grain market despite the obstacles the conflict has brought about. Grain production by Ukrainian farmers is still substantial and contributes to global trade. On the other hand, the fighting has hampered agricultural endeavors in the east, impacting both output and transportation. Ukraine aims to protect its agricultural resources while striking a balance between political and economic factors.

### **c) USA**

Since February 24th, 2022, the United States has provided \$44.2 billion in military assistance, becoming one of Ukraine's main suppliers. In addition to this, they have given Ukraine \$23.8 billion worth of DoD's (material goods owned by the government). When it comes to the agricultural sector, the USA is also actively involved. More specifically, it has given Ukraine \$250 million to provide resources that have been lacking as a consequence of the war.

### **d) China**

China has been one of Ukraine's main grain export destinations, meaning it has faced immense drawbacks due to the war.

## **V. Relevant UN Documents and Articles**

- 1. UN Security Council Resolution 2202 (2015):** The territorial integrity, autonomy, and authority of Ukraine are reaffirmed by this resolution. It mentions the humanitarian crisis and stresses how crucial it is to give impacted communities access to necessities such as food.
- 2. UN Security Council Resolution 2474 (2019):** The protection of civilians during armed conflict, including their access to food and other humanitarian aid, is the subject of this resolution. It might draw attention to how the conflict affects food security and agricultural output in Ukraine and the surrounding areas.

## **VI. Possible Solutions**

- How has global food security been impacted by disruptions in grain supply, especially in regions reliant on imports from both Russia and Ukraine?
- What could be done to limit the effects of conflict on agricultural production and trade?
- How can diplomatic efforts facilitate the resolution of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and promote stability in grain markets?



## **VII. Questions to Consider**

- How has global food security been impacted by disruptions in grain supply, especially in regions reliant on imports from both Russia and Ukraine?
- What could be done to limit the effects of conflict on agricultural production and trade?
- How can diplomatic efforts facilitate the resolution of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and promote stability in grain markets?
- How can States provide a multilateral policy framework to combat this disruption in grain supply?
- Are there any international organizations which combat similar issues? If yes, how can such entities help in solving the instability of grain markets?

## **VIII. Conclusion**

The situation between Russia and Ukraine poses difficult problems for the world's grain supply, which has an impact on trade, humanitarian aid, and food security. Stakeholders must prioritize safeguarding agricultural assets, guaranteeing continuous access to basic food supplies, and pursuing diplomatic means of resolving underlying tensions as long as the conflict lasts. In order to address these issues and lessen the humanitarian impact of the conflict on populations that are already at risk, the United Nations and other international actors must work together.

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