

Assessing the U.N.'s Condemnation of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine 2022

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The Facts to Consider in an Assessment of the U.N. Vote

- 1) The U.N. has 193 member nations and all are General Assembly members,
- 2) 94 nations were co-sponsors of the draft condemnation resolution,
- 3) 141 members voted to support the resolution – 73% of the membership,
- 4) 5 members along with Russia voted against the resolution – 3%,
Iran, North Korea, Syria, Belarus, Eritrea

Nations that voted against the condemnation proposal are very unlikely to support sanctions or any other means of holding Russia accountable. Other than Russia, these are not especially powerful economic, political or military nations, but they are distributed around the world.

- 5) 35 members elected to abstain on the resolution - 18%,

These nations are distributed worldwide and notably include: China, India, Pakistan, Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Vietnam, South Africa, Armenia, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Bangladesh, etc. [More on the significance of this below]

- 6) 181 members voted – 94%, 12 members did not vote – <1%. How many who did not vote are like Venezuela – sympathetic to or so controlled by Russia that they can't or won't take a public stand? It seems likely that several in this non-vote category will not support sanctions.

A total of 31 – possibly 38 Nations – 16% to 20% voted to directly support Russia or to avoid commitment. Together with Russia, these nations include real economic and political powerhouses – China and India, and collectively they represent more than 1/3 of the world population. Taken together, this array of rejecting and abstaining nations can offer Russia continuing access to very significant markets worldwide and through them to the international banking system. China has explicitly said it will not support banking sanctions. Trade with China – with bolstered access to Russia's major gas and oil supplies – could alone prop up Russia economically for a considerable period of time.

Conclusion

Will Russia be isolated economically and politically and brought to heel by the combination of the U.N. condemnation and the imposed sanctions? The hopeful view from within a highly unified Western Society perspective, may be, "Yes." However, viewing the facts from the global perspective – based on the above facts – that result is much less certain. And this less positive evaluation does not take into consideration the need for imposed sanctions to be sustained long term by the 141 nations supporting the Non-Binding U.N. Draft resolution.

Presently [3/2/22], we do not know how this invasion situation will play out.