

AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Mozambique-West relations may go cold due to lack of condemnation of Russian offensive in Ukraine

- The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine has already caused more than two million refugees and the number of civilians killed already exceeds 500. It is the biggest humanitarian crisis in decades in Europe and Russia's attacks continue with no end in sight in several Ukrainian cities. Last March the 2nd, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the support of 141 of the 193-member states of the organization.



United Nations vote on resolution condemning Russian invasion of Ukraine



The resolution had only five (5) votes against (Russia, Belarus, Syria, North Korea and Eritrea) and 35 abstaining. Mozambique is part of the group of countries that abstained from voting on the text presented at the UN extraordinary general assembly that deplores the Russian aggression against Ukraine and demands Russia to end its invasion and unconditionally withdraw its troops.

In a statement to the press in Maputo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said that the Government of Mozambique defends the “primacy of the negotiated solution of conflicts,” and called for moderation, protection of human life, ceasing hostilities, and the “relaunching of a constructive dialogue between the parties involved, with a view to a lasting political solution to the conflict.”

Verónica Macamo avoided the words “invasion” and “aggression” to describe the situation in Ukraine, which, in her words, “constitutes a serious threat to peace and security in Europe, whose disastrous consequences will be felt on this continent and globally.

Meanwhile, Mozambique’s failure to condemn the Russian invasion into Ukraine is generating some coolness in relations with the West, including with the European Union. It was expected that Mozambique, a state that defends the principle of national sovereignty and the right to self-determination of peoples, would condemn the Russian aggression in Ukraine, as well as the flagrant

violation of human rights, especially the right to life of thousands of Ukrainian civilians.

The government preferred a neutral position to preserve its alliances with Russia, a country where Filipe Nyusi made an official visit in August 2019, in what was considered the first trip by a Mozambican head of state after the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1991. During the visit, agreements were signed in the areas of mineral resources, energy, defense and security. And to make feasible Russia’s interest in Mozambican diamonds, the Government stimulated the adhesion of Mozambique in the Kimberley Process, a fact materialized in November 2021.

Besides the cooling of relations with the West, the Mozambican government’s choice may have implications in the fight against violent extremism in Cabo Delgado. Last February, Filipe Nyusi went to Brussels to ask the European Union to finance the military operations of Rwanda and SADC that fight against violent extremism in Cabo Delgado. And he received promises of support, in addition to the European Union mission to train the Defense and Security Forces that is already in Mozambique since November 2021.

Prior to the European Union mission, the United States of America (USA) was already training special units of the Defense and Security Forces to combat violent extremism. Moreover, the West is by far the largest funder of the Mozambican state, but the government’s position of not condemning a war that

is killing civilians and causing a severe humanitarian crisis may affect that good mood.

More than compromising present and future support, the government’s abstention in relation to the resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine discredits Mozambique’s image internationally. And this happens at a time when the Mozambican state is running to occupy one of the 10 vacancies that are reserved for non-permanent members of the UN Supreme Council for the 2023 - 2025 term. The chances of election may be compromised.

Some analysts argue that the group of 27 African countries that voted for the resolution is composed mainly of Western-aligned democracies, most notably Botswana, Cape Verde, Benin and Mauritius. The group also includes some non-democratic and/or hybrid regimes, such as Rwanda, Somalia, Libya, Gabon, and Chad.

In turn, most of the 17 African countries that abstained are made up of authoritarian or hybrid regimes. In addition to Mozambique, the list includes countries such as Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. In turn, most of the 17 African countries that abstained are made up of authoritarian or hybrid regimes. In addition to Mozambique, the list includes countries such as Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.



**EDITORIAL INFORMATION**

**Property:** CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento  
**Director:** Prof. Adriano Nuvunga  
**Editor:** Emídio Beula  
**Author:** Emídio Beula  
**Team:** Emídio Beula, Dimas Sinoa, Américo Maluana  
**Layout:** CDD

**Address:**  
 Rua de Dar-Es-Salaam Nº 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Cidade de Maputo.  
 Telefone: +258 21 085 797

**CDD\_moz**  
**E-mail:** info@cddmoz.org  
**Website:** http://www.cddmoz.org

**PROGRAMMATIC PARTNER**



**FINANCING PARTNERS**

