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The Russian-Ukrainian War and its Economic Repercussions on the Countries of the African Continent Challenges and Remedies

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Abstract

The Russian war on Ukraine inflicted a significant blow to the world economy, leaving it reeling from one crisis after another, with Sub-Saharan African countries being the most severely devastated. Because both sides of the war were important exporters of oil, gas, cereals, and other commodities to Africa and other countries across the world, as supply declined and prices climbed, the risk of the largest inflationary shock and recession to hit Africa since the 1970s increased. The continent of Africa, notwithstanding its meagre capacities. However, the continent of Africa, despite the modest capabilities of its countries in economic terms, was at the level of the event and the effects of the day its countries joined efforts to find continental organizations that contributed to finding effective solutions to the repercussions of the war and its effects, and succeeded in reducing them The African Trade Exchange (ATEX), which is a digital platform that buys basic commodities wholesale from African or international producing countries while ensuring that they are delivered to countries in need at competitive prices supported in a manner characterized by transparency and justice. and fairness.

Keywords: *Ukrainian People's Republic, Russian Federation, War, African continent, Crises, Repercussions, Remedies.*

Introduction

The war between the People's Republic of Ukraine and the Russian Federation broke out in February 2022, and that war is a devastating all-out war whose political, military and economic effects and repercussions have threatened not only the warring countries and their peoples, or the countries that support their parties based on the nature of the economic and geopolitical interests that bind them to them, but their impact and threat have become global continental. The expansion of its operations and the prolongation of its duration cast a dark shadow on the world's continents and its countries, threatening all patterns of life and its fields in it, especially the economic field, and the African continent was no exception to that impact and threat. In particular, we realized that the Russian Federation is rich in natural resources such as oil, natural gas, coal, iron, zinc and platinum. The most important crops are legumes such as beans and corn and grains such as wheat, which are materials and products that have a resounding impact on the African continent if less supplied than them, as well as the case applies to the Republic of Ukraine, it is also characterized by the production of natural resources such as oil and natural gas as well as iron, nickel and titanium, as well as crops such as cereals, especially wheat.

To study and explain the effects of the war and its repercussions on the countries of the African

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continent and their poor peoples, we decided to divide the structure of the research into three axes, the first of which came to give us an impression of the causes of the outbreak of war and its effects on the European economy. Especially since we have an almost certain perception that the economies of European countries are economic cartels in the world and that studying the impact of war on them would give us a comparative study on the extent of the war's impact on the economies of the weak and exhausted African continent.

The second section has sought to prove the fact that the economy of any country is determined by the level of progress growth and prosperity and deterioration and recession or inflation level of the actual impact of the prices of exports or imports of basic commodities, namely oil, gas and foodstuffs such as grains, especially wheat, sunflower seeds and other cash crops and this fact was applicable wholesale and in detail to the situation in the African continent and its countries after the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war. While the third section discussed the economic treatment of the repercussions of the war and its effects on the countries of the continent, especially since more than ten months have passed since the outbreak of the war, it seemed that all global partners "capitalist countries" benefiting from the wealth of the African continent before the war have left them facing food insecurity and behind him the spectre of poverty and famine that threatens their security and political stability alone without Nasser or appointed. And how the position of the capitalist countries above was an incentive for them to deal with the challenges and crises of war alone and according to their modest self-capabilities by raising their economic capabilities and capabilities by creating organizations aimed at addressing the increased pressure generated by the Ukrainian-Russian war on vital supply chains and commodities in African markets.

The First Section: An Introduction to the Outbreak of War and its Impact on the Global - European Economy

The war between the Ukrainian People's Republic and the Russian Federation (United Russia) broke out after units and formations of the latter's army, by order of its President Vladimir Putin, launched a military attack on the twenty-fourth of February 2022, as a disciplinary measure against Ukraine³. That attack, which was initially a pre-emptive reaction, so to speak, after Ukraine threatened Russia's national security on the day it showed a keen interest in joining NATO (4). The accession welcomed and supported by the United States, opposed and rejected by the Russian Federation to the extent that its Tsar Putin ordered his forces to launch an attack against Ukraine after sensing the danger of such accession, which in fact meant the deployment of NATO forces in Ukrainian territory, specifically on the border separating it from the Russian Federation, and the threat to Russian national security by the United States and its allies under its military banner in NATO.⁽⁵⁾

Over time, as we are witnessing today, the attack has turned into a devastating all-out war whose political, military and economic repercussions have been threatened, not only to the warring countries and their peoples, or to the countries that support their parties based on the nature of the economic and geopolitical interests that bind them to them, but their impact and

3) Daniel Keane and Elly Blake, "What is the Homes for Ukraine refugees scheme and how do you apply Archived from the original on 14 March 2022. Retrieved 15 March 2022.; Antonio Pita and, Raúl Sánchez Costa, "Ukrainian exodus could be Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II". Archived from the original on 5 April 2022.

4) David Axe, "The Russians Spent Months Forming A New Army Corps. It Lasted Days in Ukraine". Forbes. MSN. Retrieved 19 September 2022; Taylor, Adam. "Russia's attack on Ukraine came after months of denials it would attack". The Washington Post. Photograph by Evgeniy Maloletka (Associated Press). (24 February 2022)

5) Thomas Latschan, "Ukraine and Russia fight intense battles for Snake Island". Deutsche Welle. (14 May 2022).

threat have become global and continental. The expansion of its operations and the prolongation of its duration cast a dark shadow on the continents of the world and its countries, threatening all patterns of life and areas in it, especially the economic field, the war led to a sharp rise in the prices of commodities and basic materials, "such as oil, gas and foodstuffs such as grains. The main source of livelihood in all countries and countries of the world without exception, especially if we take into account that the interruption or shortage of its supply, at least by Russia and Ukraine due to the war, will have resounding repercussions on all parts of the world, especially since the warring countries were and still occupy advanced ranks in the production of these materials, for example, but not limited to, we find the Russian Federation rich in natural resources such as oil, natural gas, coal, iron, zinc and platinum. As for the most important crops, they are legumes such as beans and corn and grains such as wheat (6), they rank third in the world in oil production after both the United States and Saudi Arabia with a production rate of (10,800,000) barrels per day (7) and the first in the world in the production of natural gas with a production capacity of (654,000,000,000) cubic meters per year, as its production of natural gas reached (36,5000,000) cubic meters in January 2022, days before the outbreak of the war, and that more than two-thirds of this (8). In wheat production, the Russian Federation ranks third in the world after the People's Republic of China and India with an annual production capacity of 86,000,000 tons per year, according to the latest census issued by the President of the Russian Grain Producers Union, Arkady Zlochevsky. (9).

As for the second party to the war, which is Ukraine, it is also characterized by the production of natural resources such as oil and natural gas, as well as iron nickel and titanium, as well as crops such as cereals, especially wheat,¹⁰ although it ranks fifty-eighth in oil production with a production capacity of (31,989) barrels per day (11). On the other hand, it has its weight in the production of crops, especially wheat, as it ranks eighth internationally with a production capacity of (25,000,000) tons per year, so it is one of the largest grain-producing countries in the world.¹² However, the economic devastation of that war from one continent to another and from one country to another is mitigated by the strength of the economy and the amount of growth enjoyed by one or another State. and the quality of remedies taken to reduce their economic impact on their peoples.

Today, the economy of the European continent and its countries, which is the strongest economy in the world if compared to other global economies because it is a multi-source productive economy, although it suffers from inflation and a sharp and unprecedented rise in commodity prices, as the prices of a barrel of oil rose to reach \$ 120 per barrel, which led to a rise in oil prices, which led to a threefold increase in fuel prices in both the United States and European countries than before the outbreak of the war. As the suspension of the supply of natural gas from Russia led to a fourfold increase in domestic gas prices according to October 2022 statistics from its prices for the same month last year. Both the United States and the

6) Muhammad Al-Jabri, Encyclopedia of the countries of the world "facts and figures", 1st Edition, Nile Arab Group for Printing and Publishing, Cairo, 2000, p. 142.

7) For an expansion on the list of countries by oil production, see:

- Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and Ibrahim Assane Mayaki , Impact of Russia-Ukraine Conflict: An Opportunity To Build Resilient And Inclusive Food Systems In Africa, AUC Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment,2022.In: <https://www.nepad.org/news/impact-of-russia-ukraine-conflict-opportunity-build-resilient-and-inclusive-food-systems>;<https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki>

8) Luhn, Alec. "Russian anti-gay law prompts rise in homophobic violence". The Guardian Retrieved (1 September 2013).

9) Quoting from the website of Al-Mayadeen channel, for expansion see:

- <https://www.almayadeen.net/news/economic> .

10) Muhammad al-jabri, op. cit., p. 82.

11) For an expansion on the list of countries by oil production, see:

- <https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki> .

12) Judah, Ben, Fragile Empire: How Russia Fell In and Out of Love with Vladimir Putin, Yale University Press, 2013, p. 17

European Union countries rushed to increase the strategic reserves of oil, pumping (2,000,000) barrels per day to global markets and reducing restrictions on investments in the field of research and exploration for fossil fuels, despite the problems between the US administration and investment companies with previous contracts, but these measures did not succeed in reducing fuel prices. In the same context, the prices of foodstuffs such as wheat and vegetable oils have risen with the possibility of increasing the prices of these materials in particular and foodstuffs in general, especially as we have taken into account Russia and Ukraine account for 25-30% of the world's exports of wheat and sunflower oil. The continuation of the war and the exacerbation of the pressures of the supply chain of basic commodities to Europe due to the economic sanctions imposed by the European Union and the United States on Russia as a result of waging war on Ukraine, which hindered the supply of goods from Russia to the European continent, which made the markets in it witness continuous economic volatility with the development of the crisis in addition to the reluctance of investors to invest in Europe because they are looking for safe havens to protect their investments, which are no longer available in Europe due to the war crisis and market fluctuations. Specialists in this regard are likely to remain uncertain and economic stability high with the continuation of military operations and expansion by Russia against Ukraine. The solutions and treatments of European international monetary institutions, including the European Central Bank and to some extent, the US Federal Reserve, including the provision of financial liquidity and the production of a more adaptive monetary policy to this crisis to reduce its economic effects did not succeed when they decided to gradually increase interest rates despite the pressures of inflation on the one hand, and on the other hand, the United Kingdom and the United States tended to ease restrictions on Russia's export of oil and natural gas, but the inclusion of a price ceiling less than The prices of the world markets for the same materials in the context of their attempts to reduce their prices and mitigate the economic effects on the countries of the European continent. But to no avail in light of Russia's adherence to its position and refusal to obey the British-American will¹³. This may be due to Russia's certainty of achieving the goals it set before launching its war against Ukraine.

The Second Section: The Repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian War on the Economy of the African Continent and its Countries

After this introduction to the war and its effects on global economies, especially the economy of the United States of America, the European Union and the European continent, we have formed the fact that the economy of any country is determined by the level of progress of growth and prosperity, deterioration and stagnation or inflation by the level of actual impact of the prices of its exports or imports of basic commodities, namely oil, gas and foodstuffs such as grains, especially wheat, sunflower seeds and other cash crops. In particular, the difference in the balance of payments will inevitably generate a state of Economic stability is likely to widen class inequality and deepen poverty, prompting the government to reorganize geopolitics in light of the new economic changes to find solutions to the crisis that may succeed in its case or deepen its impact and repercussions (14). This hypothetical fact applies to the situation in the African continent and its countries after the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

The continent of Africa and its developing economies have barely fully recovered from the

13) KPMG's Chief Economist in the UK ,Russia and Ukraine conflict: Economic implications ,In: <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2022/03/russia-and-ukraine-conflict-chief-economist-team.html>

14) Angela Lusigi , Africa and the Russia-Ukraine conflict: Seizing the opportunity in the crisis, UNDP Resident Representative, Ghana, 30 June 2022.In: [tps://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/africa-and-russia-ukraine-conflict-seizing-opportunity-crisis](https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/africa-and-russia-ukraine-conflict-seizing-opportunity-crisis)

social and economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic "COVID-19" that hit the world and paralyzed it economically for more than two years 2019-2021 We see it today under the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war, whose outbreak constituted a major threat to the global economy with a clear and direct impact on the economy of African countries, so it was a double-edged impact, but the economies of some countries and exhausted the economies of other countries, Within a few weeks, the prices of wheat, sunflower, crude oil, and gas had risen globally to unprecedented levels. Since Africa depends heavily on its imports of the above commodities from both countries, and therefore due to the rise in prices, it has witnessed crises and violent economic blows that affected the level of food security and social stability and a decrease in economic growth resulting from the decline in the supply chain of goods to it from Russia due to the sanctions imposed on it and from Ukraine since most of its regions and cities are under the control of the attacking Russian forces¹⁵.The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination.

According to the UN's Global Crisis Response Group on food, energy and finance, it is likely that levels of food insecurity will increase in some countries of the African continent and that it will hurt all other aspects of development, such as health and educational systems after the crisis hit the vital sector in the economic aspect of most countries of the African continent, which is the agricultural sector (16) . Especially with the continuation of the war the expansion of operations and worsening positions between the warring countries.

Over the past decade, the African continent has witnessed an increase in demand for cereal crops, particularly wheat and sunflower, which has been mainly supported by imports rather than domestic production. Accordingly, Africa's wheat imports jumped from (21,000,000) tons per year in 2007 to reach (47,000,000) tons in 2019, and the number continued to increase continuously until the moment of the outbreak of war. And the Lord asks what entered the war by the amount of excess of the demand for wheat. Russia and Ukraine are major players in exporting wheat and sunflower to Africa. And identify the countries of North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) and Nigeria in West Africa, Ethiopia and Sudan in Eastern and Southern Africa, as Russia and Ukraine (80%) supply per cent of wheat imports to those countries, and the evidence of this is that Russia and Ukraine refer to the name of the global bread basket. Wheat consumption in Africa is expected to reach (76,500,000) tons by 2025, of which (48,300,000) tons are expected to be imported outside the continent mostly from Russia and Ukraine (17). However, the imposition of economic sanctions by the United States of America and Western countries (Britain and the European Union) on Russia as a result of its war on Ukraine has led to the absence and cessation of the supply of wheat and sunflower from Russia to African countries, especially after the closure of the Black Sea to Russian goods and basic commodities. Not only is this what raises the concerns of the countries of the African continent, but there are concerns related to the fact that Russia is one of the largest exporters of fertilizers globally, and with the imposition of sanctions, there is fear from the countries of the African continent. The lack of supply of Russian fertilizer globally would lead to a rise in food prices, especially as this has indirect effects on the amount of agricultural production and thus food security. It is expected that the rise in oil prices in the global market will also harm the food security of the African continent because the rise in prices will inevitably lead to higher costs of producing crops.(18)

15) Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Op.Cit, P.2.

16) Angela Lusigi ,Op.Cit.,P.2.

17) Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Op.Cit., P.2.

18 Ibid.

Some countries in the Horn of Africa (Horn of Africa) (19), especially that the Sahel countries of the Horn of the Century, namely Djibouti, Somalia and Eritrea, suffered insufficient rainfall in 2022(20). They are therefore at greater risk of food insecurity.²¹ The weakness and low infrastructure (i.e. organizational structures and transportation routes) between the countries of the African continent means that the "productive" food surplus in one or several countries cannot reach those countries that are most needed. The decline in agricultural productivity, driven by the lack of use of modern agricultural techniques and technology, makes the agricultural sector operate at its minimum capacity in most countries of the African continent. Moreover, the limited agricultural processing of agricultural crops and insufficient storage and strategic precautions to face emergency crises, including what happened in the aftermath of the outbreak of war and the high prices of agricultural crops due to the interruption of their supply chains from Russia (22).It makes the African continent an environment conducive to the growing risks of food insecurity.

In light of the above, we can conclude that food insecurity in some countries of the African continent, which is the result of climate change, and restrictions on Russian exports, due to the continuation of its war on Ukraine, and the high prices of basic materials in the production process, especially fertilizers and oil "fuel", which will increase production costs and inevitably will negatively affect the next agricultural season in Africa. It is registered as a danger that does not threaten the African continent and its countries economically, but politically, because it may lead to the outbreak of revolutions and unrest that may overthrow the existing political systems in some of its countries.

On a level related to the economic reality of some countries of the African continent, we found that the African diamond mining and industry sector has also been damaged by the war, especially the economies of those countries in which Russian diamond companies work in mines, including Namibia and Angola. Those countries and then a clear deficit in the balance of payments.(23)

The continuation of the war has become a threat to delay the recovery in the tourism sector for some African countries, especially small countries and developing island countries whose economy depends entirely on tourism and its imports, if the war continues, it will slow growth in these economies, which depend heavily on the tourism sector, including the Republic of Seychelles and Mauritius, the latter was the sixth tourist destination on the list of tourist countries for citizens of Russia and Ukraine by 27% of The total number of arrivals and tourists according to the statistics of January and February 2022, but this percentage fell to zero after the outbreak of the war. To mitigate this, the Mauritian government has re-engineered the tourism sector by expanding towards attracting tourists from outside Europe, but to no avail because of the difference in material means between European tourists and their counterparts from other continents. The situation in the Republic of Seychelles was no better than its

19 The Horn of Africa: Geographers and anthropologists differed in defining and defining the borders of the Horn of Africa, as they unanimously agreed that it is the land inhabited by Somalis and that their countries and homelands are numerous, including Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti. The Horn of Africa occupies and represents the eastern part of the African continent located in the far northeast of the continent. It has an area of (450) thousand square miles. It covers all the territory of the State of Somalia, Half of Djibouti's territory, and one-fifth of the area of Kenya and Ethiopia.

- http://www.moqatel.com/openshare/Behoth/Siasia2/karn-Afric/sec03.doc_cvt.html

20) Angela Lusigi ,Op.Cit.,P.3.

21) Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and Ibrahim Assane Mayaki ,Op.Cit.,P.3.

22) Angela Lusigi ,Op.Cit.,P.3.

23) Rapid Assessment by the Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP, The Impact of the war in Ukraine on sustainable development in Africa , MAY 24, 2022.In: <https://www.undp.org/africa/publications/impact-war-ukraine-sustainable-development-africa>

neighbor Mauritius, especially if we know that Russian tourists constitute 20.7% of the total tourist arrivals to Seychelles, according to the statistics of January and February 2022. The tourism sector contributes to about 25% of Seychelles' GDP, and the Republic of Seychelles is expected to face a significant revenue shortfall. It may have to make up for the balance of payments shortfall and borrow amid rising spending on social protection and other development programs.(24)

Just as the Russian-Ukrainian war had negative effects and repercussions on some countries and countries of the African continent, it also had positive effects on others. We know that the outbreak of the war led to a steady and unprecedented increase in the prices of basic materials, including energy sources, specifically gas and oil, as we mentioned earlier. Here, the countries of the African continent producing these materials can benefit from this increase in prices, as Angola, Nigeria, South Sudan, Congo and Gabon are oil-producing countries that can benefit from the increase in demand for oil and its high prices in light of the search of European and other industrialized countries for those who supply them (new suppliers of energy sources) after the lack of supply from Russia due to the economic sanctions imposed on it (25). Thus, the war will be an opportunity to achieve sustainable development for some African countries, which will inevitably reflect positively on the entire continent by finding long-term growth in the future, especially since the continent has countries rich in natural gas such as Algeria, Tanzania, Senegal, Nigeria and Mozambique have begun to benefit from the increased demand for it by European countries wishing to reduce their dependence on Russian gas. As investment projects in front of foreign companies in the economic plan for 2023. After the Russian gas crisis, Senegal aims to invest in 40,000,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas discovered in its territory between 2014-2017. Algeria, Niger and Nigeria have already signed an agreement worth \$13,000,000,000 to develop a pipeline to transport natural gas produced in them through the Sahara. With the outbreak of war and the imposition of economic sanctions on Russia's supply of gas to European countries, the United States announced its ability to supply Europe with (15,000,000,000) cubic meters of liquefied natural gas, but this amount covers only 10% of the volume of gas purchased by the 27 member states of the European Union from Russia. In the medium term, and in cooperation with its allies of the most prominent gas producers such as Qatar or even with its enemies such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this is unlikely at the moment due to the difference in political ideologies between the latter and the United States, this figure may rise to (50,000,000,000) cubic meters per year, which is equivalent to a third of the needs of European countries of Russian natural gas (26). On the basis of this, it is clear to us that the countries of Europe must search for new suppliers and suppliers of natural gas to fill the two-thirds gap, which will provide an ideal opportunity for the gas-producing countries of Africa to achieve sustainable development by seeking and exerting efforts to fill that gap and position themselves as an alternative to Russia.

The increase in oil and gas prices may be a double-edged sword again, but this time for the rich countries, the positive impact of high prices and increased global demand is tantamount to expanding their economic growth prospects by increasing their fiscal revenues that would increase their public financial balances and foreign exchange reserves (hard currency) or gold. Those countries will then need plans to better manage these financial gains, because the increase in oil prices due to the war has been accompanied by effects. Negative and harmful, including the high costs of transporting and producing refined petroleum derivatives such as

24) Ibid.P.3.

25) Ibid.P.3.

26) Ibid.

gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and kerosene. This requires the governments of those countries not to rush to add the value achieved from the sale of oil unless they subtract from it the financial value that will be spent on manufacturing and refining in light of the weak capacity of those countries and their delay in this field. As well as allocating the money it will spend to provide gasoline, diesel, kerosene and other fuels for domestic consumption at low prices with increasing prices internationally accompanied by the effects of the war.(27)

Based on this, we can discern that most of the economies of the African continent are vulnerable, because of their excessive dependence on the limited sources of national income (rentier economy), in light of any global crisis, including the crisis of the Russian-Ukrainian war, we see their economies deteriorating due to their limited sources first and the absence of government strategic planning secondly, we find the governments of those countries always and never resort to borrowing "loans" abroad to face crises. Debt risk, coupled with accelerating inflation and a slow recovery in most sectors, would be a gateway to the collapse of their fragile political systems.

The Third Section: Economic Treatments of the Repercussions of the War and its Effects on the Countries of the Continent

Today, more than ten months after the outbreak of the war, it seems that all the global partners, the "capitalist countries", who benefited from the wealth of the African continent before the war, have left it facing food insecurity and behind it the specter of poverty and famine, which threatens its security and political stability alone, without a supporter or helper.

On the other hand, it had to deal with the challenges and crises of war alone and according to its modest capabilities, and in this context it seems that it had prepared well, as two years after the Covid-19 crisis, the African continent had absorbed a number of lessons that became decisive in facing the crises of food shortages, rising fuel prices and fertilizer scarcity, which began to reverberate around the world due to the Russian-Ukrainian war and its repercussions, which created global disruptions in the trade and supply of basic commodities. The Russian-Ukrainian crisis has increased pressure on vital commodity supply chains in African markets, with current and projected increases in the prices of agricultural products such as cereals and their production materials such as fertilizers. This has generated significant and unexpected pressure on fragile domestic production in many African countries that rely on external supply chains by up to 80% to provide these goods for consumption and sustained life.

Since history revolves around drawing lessons and lessons, in the context of addressing these dangerous effects, it is enough for the African continent and its countries to go back to the recent past to be inspired by the lessons and experiences that enabled it to overcome the Covid-19 crisis, which prompted nearly (38) countries out of (54) of their countries to close completely within three months of the outbreak of the virus, causing unspeakable damage to the economies of many of its countries. However, the crisis and its repercussions allowed those countries to reassess their capabilities and start cooperating with each other in order to develop effective solutions and treatments to confront the crisis and overcome it to safety, including digital rapid response systems to support countries that collapsed in light of the Covid-19 crisis, and its model is the African Medical Supplies Platform and AVAT and the Vaccine Purchase and Provision Fund. Africa responded collectively, and its early response – paid off in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. Today, the African continent and its countries, facing the challenge

27) Ibid,pp.3-4.

of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the resulting crises, must only adopt the experience of the past to join hands to survive again as they did before. In particular, the orderly collection of surplus production of basic commodities and foodstuffs in some of their rich countries can be a decisive factor in providing them to countries where they are most needed due to lack of supply or high prices, provided that it is at competitive subsidized prices. This is done through the establishment of new markets within the African continent in which surplus rates are matched to levels of need and demand, and inevitably the proposal will play a decisive role in addressing the food and fertilizer crisis.

In this regard, and based on the experience gained from the Covid-19 pandemic²⁸, the Secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) (29) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in cooperation with the African Export-Import Bank launched the African Export and Import Area. (30) "African Export-Import Bank" (AFREXIMBANK) African Trade Exchange (ATEX), a digital platform that buys basic commodities wholesale from African or international producing countries while ensuring their delivery to countries in need at competitive prices subsidized in a manner characterized by transparency, justice and fairness. ATEX) in addition to the trading system supported by the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement and the financing of the African Export-Import Bank through its approved plan to support emergency food production in the amount of (1,500,000,000) dollars, to mitigate the impact of the war on food prices through the rapid production of wheat, corn, rice and soybeans in the African continent. ATEX will facilitate the digital empowerment and development of trade in cereals (including wheat, corn and cereals), fertilizers and associated inputs, oils and oilseeds, as well as other products and inputs necessary to support the provision of nutritional and basic value to the continent's nations."⁽³¹⁾

In the same context, the use of the ATEX platform will, in addition to the above, achieve development potential in e-commerce and digital, and provide the opportunity and facilitate the access of SMEs to the wider African market. This will enhance intra-African trade and the African trade center in the global market, thus helping to adapt to the disruptions in the issue of the continuous supply of African companies and economies of commodities and food crops to the countries of the African continent.⁽³²⁾

Conclusion

28 African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): A free trade area, described and referred to in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement signed between 42 of the 55 African Union countries. The free trade area is the largest in the world in terms of the number of participating countries since the formation of the World Trade Organization. An agreement signed by its members provided for the removal of 90% of tariffs and tariffs imposed on goods, allowing free access to goods and services across the continent. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has predicted that the agreement will boost intra-African trade by 52 percent by 2022. And that is what happened. For expansion see:

- <https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

29) The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, established in 1958 with the aim of encouraging economic cooperation among member states from the African continent. The Committee consists of 54 member states. It is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and has five regional offices. For expansion see:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Economic_Commission_for_Africa

30) African Export-Import Bank: It is a financial institution, established in October 1993 under the auspices of the African Development Bank, and headquartered in Cairo, Egypt. Its mission is to stimulate the expansion of financial and banking investment, diversification and development of African trade while acting as a first-class, profit-oriented, socially responsible and center of excellence in African trade affairs. In financing and promoting trade within and outside Africa. For expansion see:

- Devex "African Export-Import Bank". Devex.com. Retrieved 22 September 2019; World Economic Forum (2018). "About Prof. Benedict Okey Oramah: President, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)". Geneva: World Economic Forum. Retrieved 25 December 2018; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Export%E2%80%93Import_Bank

31) Sane Dhlamini, Africa Trade Exchange to mitigate impact of Russia-Ukraine war on food, 11TH MAY 2022.In: <https://www.polity.org.za/article/africa-trade-exchange-to-mitigate-impact-of-russia-ukraine-war-on-food-2022-05-11>; Communications Section Economic Commission for Africa, Africa launches a platform to deal with the Ukraine crisis shocks, Addis Ababa, 10 May 2022.In: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/africa-launches-platform-deal-ukraine-crisis-shocks>

32 Ibid.

In conclusion, we can say that through this and other similar programs, the African continent has shown a leading and pioneering role in meeting challenges by relying on its modest self-potential, which Africa must develop to be a safer and more stable mechanism and solutions in the provision of basic commodities and the establishment of stronger links within Africa between suppliers. The platform is only a fraction of Africa's economic and innovative potential.

But to say that this platform is a solution to the problem of the current crisis in Africa does not mean at all that the African continent rejects or discourages international cooperation, but in fact this treatment has sent a message to the whole world that it is a major section and a global actor with or without partners in addressing and addressing global crises.

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