



## Security Council briefing on the Maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine, 13 January 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier  
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President

I begin by thanking Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo for her sobering briefing. I recognise the participation of H.E Dzhaparova, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine.

The heralding of a new year has struck differently this year with the people of Ukraine due to the continuation of Russia's war of aggression. At the start of 2023 we must continue to prioritise the prolonged and intensifying nature of this illegal war along with its consequences on Ukraine, its people, Europe, and the rest of the world.

As we continue to witness the systematic targeting of critical infrastructure, particularly energy and water distribution systems, we condemn this evident "weaponization of winter" to the severe detriment of civilians in Ukraine.

These attacks have led to widespread blackouts and the disruption of essential services in Ukraine and constitute a violation of International Humanitarian Law in particular the four Geneva conventions and their protocols.



We stress that International Humanitarian and International Human Rights Law must be respected and upheld at all times, without exception.

The repercussions of this war on children must be highlighted. Attacks on civilian infrastructure, including schools and transportation systems, coupled with displacement, are having a disproportionate impact on children, their education and their safety. Lack of access to basic services is depriving them of their fundamental rights, and this will lead to long-term consequences that will not be easily reversed. Furthermore, children have been forcibly moved to Russia, breaking family ties and placing children in vulnerable situations while denying them the right to family life.

Dire consequences are also true for all the displaced people and refugees. Funding for civil society organisations, in particular women's organisations, must be given priority and all CSOs must be included and participate meaningfully in coordination mechanisms and decision-making processes at all levels.

We have heard harrowing testimonies of rape, torture, and trafficking, confirmed by the International Independent Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. In this regard, we welcome the Framework of Cooperation on the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence with the Government of Ukraine and the UN system.

We urge rigorous and swift action with respect to accountability, investigations, prosecutions, compensation, reparations, and service



provision that is survivor-centred, rights-based, and trauma informed. Once again, sexual violence has become a feature of war. We cannot fail to investigate and prosecute these crimes. We cannot, must not, and will not tolerate impunity for sexual violence in conflict.

We call for the safe, rapid, and unimpeded humanitarian access and corridors to anyone in need across Ukraine. We commend the UN, its related agencies, and all humanitarian workers who are working on the ground in an extremely difficult operational environment and taxing conditions.

President

Over the last few weeks, we have witnessed renewed and prolonged attacks on Kyiv and other cities. Along with the suffering inflicted on the civilian population, we reiterate our concern about respect for international humanitarian law and hope that these attacks will cease immediately. The documented provenance of the UAVs used in these attacks raises serious concerns which need to be addressed.

Equally, I reiterate that indiscriminate attacks and attacks on critical infrastructure must stop. It is the responsibility of this Council, and all its members, to uphold the UN Charter and International Law without exception.

In closing, we welcome USG Di Carlo's positive update with regard to the ongoing contacts regarding POWs and progress on the Black Sea Initiative.



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We call upon the Russian Federation to cease all hostilities and take concrete steps towards solving contentious issues through dialogue and diplomacy, in ways that are consistent with the UN Charter.

I thank you.