



Security Council briefing TIPS: Ukraine, 17 Tuesday 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

President

Last Friday, this Council discussed once again, the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

We stressed the fact that this war is an affront to the Charter of the United Nations and a blatant violation of international law. This is even more serious since it is being done by one of the Permanent Members of the Security Council, whose fundamental duty as a member of the Council is to protect the Charter and not violate it.

We emphasised the implications of this war on the region, the continent, and the rest of the world.

We spoke about the humanitarian catastrophe that the Ukrainian people are going through in the middle of a harsh winter.

We spoke about the plight of refugees and the internally displaced, of women who are falling victim to sexual violence, and of children who are being deprived of their education and their childhood.

Today, we are convening for another meeting requested by the Russian Federation in an attempt to deviate the focus from these crucial issues.



Against this background, we deplore the dissemination of disinformation and misinformation by Russian media and religious leaders to justify its war against Ukraine and condemn the destruction of Ukrainian historical and spiritual heritage sites in Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol, and Kharkiv.

President

Just this past weekend, missile strikes on Ukraine having continued unabated including on Dnipro and on the capital. Some of these missile strikes also targeted residential buildings and have left tens of civilians dead or injured. These have been coupled with the increasing humanitarian needs brought about by winter and the attacks on critical civilian infrastructure.

We cannot stress enough that International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights law must be fully respected and upheld.

The testimonies and evaluations presented by the International Independent Commission of Inquiry are also of grave concern and put the spotlight on a number of corroborated human rights violations which are taking place in Ukraine.

President

The only way to protect the rights of all individuals is to stop the war which has been inflicted upon Ukraine. We continue to insist that all those



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responsible for atrocity crimes must be held to account for their actions, in accordance with international law. We call upon the Russian Federation to stop this war, withdraw its military forces from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally-recognised borders, and turn to dialogue and diplomacy as the tools which can really bring stability to the region.

I thank you.