



Security Council Briefing on Russophobia as a factor which complicates the prospects to find a lasting solution, 14 March 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri,
Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President.

Today's meeting is yet another attempt by the Russian Federation to deviate the focus from the appalling events occurring in Ukraine, and cynically try to justify the unjustifiable .

Malta reiterates its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine. This brutal, unprovoked, and unjustified war is a blatant violation of the UN Charter. It has brought immense suffering, destruction, and misery on Ukraine and its population for more than a year.

Even more disturbing is that this aggression was initiated with complete disdain and disregard for international law and the rules-based order, not to mention the principles that a permanent member of this Council should uphold.

Today we have heard more narratives aimed at portraying the victim as the aggressor, and the aggressor as the victim. However, the facts are clear for all to see. On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation invaded its



neighbour, violating its sovereignty and territorial integrity, reigniting war in Europe.

President

Malta deplores the dissemination of disinformation and misinformation by Russian media and Russian leaders in an attempt to justify this war against Ukraine. Let us be clear: any ideologies that encourage racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and all other forms of intolerance have all received the sternest condemnation from us on several occasions. We stress that our position stems from our strong and principled belief that there is no alternative to multilateralism and the rules-based international order in the contemporary world.

Furthermore, we urge the full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and other pertinent human rights treaties.

We also call on Russia to respect the Order of the International Court of Justice on provisional measures dating April 2017 in the case concerning the application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

President



Turning back to the humanitarian situation in Ukraine we are deeply concerned about the persistent violations of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. We must redouble our efforts to ensure accountability for all violations. This must include justice for victims of atrocity crimes and sexual violence, as well as the abductions and forceable deportation of children. Perpetrators must be brought to justice and held to account without delay.

The aggressor must bear the legal consequences of its intentionally wrongful acts, including making reparation for the injury and damage caused. As a first step, Malta supports the idea of establishing a Register of Damages as a record of evidence and information on claims for damages, losses or injury caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

President

To conclude, let me reiterate Malta's full support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its recognised international borders, its lawful right to determine its own foreign and security policy, its diplomatic efforts in international fora as well as its right to self-defence.

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 only tools that can restore peace in the region.



**THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK**



Malta
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

I thank you.