



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

Security Council Briefing by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, 4 May 2023

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

Thank you, President, and I warmly welcome His Excellency Mr Bujar Osmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, in his capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). I thank you for your informative and insightful briefing.

We applaud North Macedonia for having chosen to put a special focus on the “people” during its Chairpersonship. Malta has full trust in your leadership and reaffirms its full support for the OSCE.

In a volatile European security context, Malta continues to attach great value to multilateralism and strongly supports enhanced cooperation between the UN and the OSCE. Our cooperation enables us to deliver more efficient and effective solutions.

The OSCE’s unique concept of a comprehensive approach to security continues to retain its relevance to adequately address the multi-dimensional challenges at hand.



As a unique forum for political and security dialogue from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the OSCE has provided a platform for confidence-building measures by focusing on conflict prevention, as well as crisis management through diplomacy.

We also welcome the steps that the OSCE has taken to embrace issues relating to economic and environmental cooperation, including climate change.

We reaffirm our support to the OSCE's human dimension autonomous institutions and instruments, as well as any efforts that lead to peace and dialogue, defuse tensions, and boost trust and confidence in the region.

The work of the OSCE has been and continues to be crucial in situations that are on the international peace and security agenda, such as the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and Transnistria region. Malta highly values the OSCE's mediation efforts and its good offices through the deployment of field missions and special representatives.

Malta welcomes the latest visit of the OSCE Chair-in-Office, to Georgia Azerbaijan, and Armenia and we express our support to keep addressing security challenges and efforts towards sustainable peace, as well as promoting and strengthening cooperation between the OSCE and its participating States in the region. We remain fully committed to contributing



to the dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan and to peace and stability in the South Caucasus. In this regard, we would like to underline our ongoing concern regarding the dire humanitarian consequences that have resulted from the blockade of the Lachin corridor. We urge all relevant parties to cease any actions impeding humanitarian access given the very urgent situation.

President,

While all OSCE participating States have reaffirmed their commitment to using peaceful means to settle any disputes, both individually and collectively, based on respect for one another and cooperation; violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law continue to occur in the region.

The reality is that Russia continues to blatantly violate the UN Charter and the founding principles of the OSCE enshrined the Helsinki Final Act, and subsequent key documents including the Charter of Paris. Its unprovoked aggression against Ukraine is undermined the European security architecture and threatening the peace and stability of the continent and beyond, while shattering the already weakened confidence and trust. Such actions are causing lasting consequences that are adversely affecting not only Ukraine and the region, but millions of people across the world.



On this occasion, we once again urge 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 - the tools which can restore peace, security, and stability in the region. We also reiterate our urgent call on Russia to implement without delay the recommendations of the latest Moscow Mechanism report, and to take all necessary measures to allow the return of the displaced or forcibly displaced children to Ukraine and to their families. Russia should prevent the occurrence of any further transfers.

President

In conclusion, we believe that strengthening the long-standing and fruitful cooperation between the UN and the OSCE will only enhance our ability to address the complex the security challenges facing the OSCE area.

I thank you.

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