



Security Council briefing on the Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine, 17 July 2023

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

Thank you, President, and I also thank you, USG DiCarlo, for your sobering and important briefing.

The international community has repeatedly called for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine, based on full respect for its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, including through UN General Assembly resolutions.

Malta expresses its support for the key principles and objectives of Ukraine's Peace Formula, which also addresses the broader global ramifications of Russia's aggression on food security, energy security, nuclear safety, and the environment.

International humanitarian law and human rights law must be upheld. Russia must immediately stop its illegal and indiscriminate shelling of civilians and critical infrastructure.

The human rights situation in the Russian-occupied territories also continues to be a matter of serious concern. As we just heard from USG Di Carlo, the numbers, and statistics in the OHCHR report are harrowing and extremely disturbing. Furthermore, as explained in the findings of the UN



International Commission of Inquiry, Russian armed forces have carried out attacks that may constitute war crimes. These include indiscriminate assaults on civilians and civilian infrastructure, executions, torture, unlawful imprisonment, inhumane detention, rape, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, and the unlawful deportation and transfer of children.

Holding the perpetrators accountable for their actions, and ensuring victims' right to reparations and justice, are essential principles. We are fully supportive of ongoing ICC and ICJ processes. We also welcome the setting up of the International Centre for the Prosecution of the crime of aggression against Ukraine that will coordinate efforts to collect, preserve and store evidence, as well as the establishment of the Council of Europe's Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine.

President

Less than one year into the establishment of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, more than 32 million tonnes of food commodities have been exported to 45 countries across three continents. It has proven itself a lifeline to millions acting as a major defence against global food insecurity accelerated by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



Today, Malta is deeply concerned by the decision of the Russian Federation not to renew this initiative further. This is another example of the politicisation of humanitarian needs which we have already witnessed only last week with the Syria file. It is of utmost importance that the BSGI is further extended and secured, to alleviate pressures on food security all over the globe. The weaponization of food is unacceptable.

I conclude, President, by underlining the fact that the unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine continues to cause severe humanitarian and human rights violations, inflicting deep intergenerational trauma and exacerbating global crises in food and energy supply.

We once again urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease all hostilities, and unconditionally, completely withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

I thank you.