



Security Council briefing on Systematic use of terrorist methods by the Kiev regime as a factor exacerbating the crisis around Ukraine and postponing its political settlement, 31 July 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri
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Thank you, President, and I thank UNOCT Deputy and Officer-in-Charge Gregorian for his briefing.

Today, the Council is meeting yet again upon the request of the Russian Federation to discuss a topic which does not reflect realities on the ground. This is another attempt by Russia to advance its isolated stance, and to try to justify its senseless, unjustified, and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine.

Malta reiterates its condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which constitutes a blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law. We also condemn Russia's unilateral decision to terminate the Black Sea Grain Initiative at a time when the World Food Programme estimates that more than 345 million people are facing high levels of food insecurity worldwide, 43 million of whom are just one step away from famine.

The world is at a turning point. We are facing a man-made problem of food insecurity, and hunger is being used as a weapon. Furthermore, Russia is blocking and bombing Ukrainian seaports. It is preventing freedom of navigation in the Black Sea without any justification, while also targeting



civilians and civilian infrastructure. These are the issues that the Security Council should be focusing on when discussing Ukraine.

Russia's disregard for international humanitarian law has been perpetuated further by the recent deliberate missile strikes in Odesa and Kostyantynivka. These acts violate the architecture of international treaties that the international community has been building for decades.

Malta condemns these barbaric acts of terror, which resulted in the death of civilians, including children. The shelling has also damaged educational institutions and other cultural and religious sites. We remain firmly committed to ensuring that Russia is held fully accountable for all its crimes.

In closing, President, Russia's efforts to change the optics over the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Second World War are counterproductive to the efforts to achieve a political settlement.

Malta remains convinced that the only step towards a lasting peace is for Russia to immediately cease all hostilities, and unconditionally, completely withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

I thank you.