



Security Council briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security (TIPS): Ukraine, 12 September 2023

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

Thank you, President. I thank High Representative Nakamitsu for her informative briefing, and have taken note of Mr Szamuely's statement.

It is regrettable that the Russian Federation has once again called for a meeting to discuss the transfer of weapons from the West to Ukraine. This meeting, which is turning into a recurring one, is solely intended to push Russia's narrative to depict the aggressor as the victim, and the victim as the aggressor. It is nothing more than a blatant attempt by the Russian Federation to justify the unjustifiable.

It goes without saying that this alternative version of events conveniently leaves out the fact that on 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation chose to violate the fundamental principles of international law that binds us all and proceeded to launch an unprovoked war of aggression against its sovereign neighbour.

These actions are even more serious and worrying when we consider Russia's role and responsibility as a Permanent Member of this Council that is entrusted with the maintenance of international peace and security.

President



Our response also remains unchanged. We once again strongly condemn Russia's senseless and illegitimate war against Ukraine. We reiterate our full support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. Equally, we underline Ukraine's right to self-defence as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Russia's continued escalation through the use of missile and drone attacks all over Ukraine has killed and wounded more than 410 civilians over the past two weeks alone, and damaged civilian infrastructure. The recent missile attack perpetrated by Russia on a market area in Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region is the latest shocking development in a long string of atrocities since the unprovoked war of aggression. This is unacceptable.

According to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, since February 2022 there have been at least 6,717 civilian casualties in Ukraine. These are mostly a result of the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects, including shelling from artillery, tanks, multiple launch rocket systems, cruise and ballistic missiles, and air strikes.

Malta echoes the Secretary-General's calls to avoid the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. They cause indiscriminate harm and immense suffering. We stress once again that civilians and civilian infrastructure are not a target and urge Russia to cease these attacks. Attacks against civilians constitute war crimes. All efforts will be made for perpetrators to be held accountable.



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These reprehensible actions are the real obstacle to peace. Malta appeals once again for constructive dialogue and diplomacy to establish lasting peace, stability, and security.

In closing, President, we urge the Russian Federation to end its hostilities, and withdraw its military forces and proxies from the entire internationally-recognised territory of Ukraine.

I thank you.