



Security Council briefing on the Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine, 9 October 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, President, and I also thank USG DiCarlo and ASG Joyce Msuya for their briefings.

Last Thursday, we witnessed yet again the tragic consequences of Russia's senseless, illegal, and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. This time, the Russian Federation struck a café in Hroza, a village of 330 people in the region of Kharkiv with no evidence of military sites. 52 people were killed as a result, including a child. Several others were injured.

This was one of the deadliest attacks on civilians since the beginning of Russia's aggression. One-fifth of the population living in this village was wiped out. Every single family was affected.

The harrowing images that came out of Hroza illustrate the devastating impact this war is having on the civilian population of Ukraine. They should serve as a stark reminder of the consequences of war, and the consequences of resigning ourselves to living in a world where might is right.

President

Malta condemns such deplorable acts against civilians and civilian infrastructure in the strongest possible terms. There is no justification for



them. Intentional attacks against civilians are prohibited under international law and amount to war crimes. Perpetrators of such atrocities must be held accountable, and we support all efforts to this end, including the ongoing ICC and ICJ processes. We stress that international humanitarian law and the rules on conduct of hostilities must be fully respected.

In closing, President, we underscore once again our conviction that to achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, Russia must immediately cease all hostilities. It must unconditionally, completely withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. Until then, we will continue standing in solidarity with Ukraine and her people.

I thank you.