



Security Council briefing on the Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine, 21 November 2023

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

Thank you, President. I also thank ASG Jenča, as well as Representative Hollingworth for their insightful briefings. I acknowledge the participation of the PR of Ukraine and the Head of the delegation of the European Union.

As part of its illegal war of aggression, Russia has developed a devastating campaign of systematic air strikes against civilians and critical infrastructure. These brutal attacks have only one objective –to inflict human suffering on Ukraine and its citizens by depriving them of electricity, heating, education, medical care, and food, as well as destroying Ukraine’s grain export capacities.

The multi-layered consequences of this war will take years to overcome and heal. It is estimated that 44% of Ukrainians have experienced being in a combat zone and 69% suffer from psychological distress.

Last week, Russian forces shelled a hospital and homes in Kherson, killing three people and injuring at least 13. Such attacks against



civilians and civilian infrastructure add to the growing evidence that Russia is committing war crimes as reported by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.

As winter sets in, the continued attacks on energy infrastructure bring a new dimension to the humanitarian crisis. Last winter, thousands of Russian drones and missiles targeted power systems leading to a severe energy crisis, leaving millions without electricity, water, or heating. This year, the brutal and relentless pattern of Russian attacks has already begun. In recent weeks, Ukrainian energy facilities have been attacked at least 60 times with different types of weaponry.

On its part, Malta welcomes OCHA's Winter Response Plan to address specific humanitarian needs in Ukraine. We will continue to support the Ukrainian people by providing humanitarian aid and assistance as long as necessary.

President

Russia's unilateral decision to terminate the Black Sea Grain Initiative, as well as its campaign to deliberately attack Ukraine's grain storage and export facilities, has destroyed 300 thousand tons



of Ukrainian grain. This is a criminal act and is a clear evidence of how Russia continues to instrumentalise food and undermine global food security as well as a cynical attempt to deprive Ukraine of income. In response to this, the EU Solidarity Lanes will continue to assist Ukraine and deliver an ambitious response to address global food insecurity.

We also express our grave concern about the recent attack against a civilian vessel in the Ukrainian Black Sea Port in Odesa. This was the first-time civilians have been killed and injured onboard a merchant ship. Russia must cease all attacks against Ukrainian seaports and allow freedom of navigation on the Black Sea.

These attacks go against international humanitarian law strictly prohibiting attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. We remain resolute in our position that perpetrators of such atrocities must be held accountable, and we support all efforts to this end, including the ongoing ICC and ICJ processes as well as the ongoing discussions on the establishment of a special tribunal on the crime of aggression against Ukraine.



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UN NEW YORK



Malta

2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

In closing, President, we underscore once again our conviction that to achieve a just and lasting peace, Russia must immediately cease all hostilities. It must unconditionally as well as completely withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

I thank you.