



Security Council briefing on Maintenance of Peace and Security: Ukraine, 11 April 2024

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

I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

I begin by thanking ASG Jenča and Director Wosornu for their briefings.

Malta condemns in the strongest possible terms the ongoing Russian aerial assaults on cities and critical infrastructure across Ukraine.

Since the start of the aggression, Russian troops have damaged more than 120,000 civilian infrastructure facilities, including power plants, schools, hospitals, kindergartens, and numerous residential buildings, in clear contravention of international humanitarian law.

During this month we have continued to observe Russia's attacks on populated areas. On 5 April, the city of Kharkiv was severely hit once again, resulting in killed or injured civilians and damage to civilian infrastructure, including the electricity supply. Following another attack on Monday in Zaporizhzhia and Sumy, civilians were again targeted.



This pattern of continued attacks impacting civilians and civilian infrastructure is reprehensible. This goes against the very principles of international law - civilians, aid workers, and first responders helping war-affected civilians must be protected at all times and respected without any exception.

The international community cannot turn a blind eye to this tragedy that continues to unfold before it. Immense human suffering, loss, and grief have become an everyday occurrence in Ukraine. Countless families have been separated. More than 10,500 civilians have been killed. More than 20,000 have been injured. These numbers do not even include the tens of thousands of Ukrainians who have died bravely defending their country. The tragedy in Ukraine has gone on for far too long and must not be normalised.

Today, 14.6 million people are estimated to remain in need of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine. Unhindered humanitarian access remains a priority and all arbitrary impediments to the entry of aid must be immediately removed.



Furthermore, we are shocked by the missile attack on the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) office in the Donetsk region on 5 April. This is not only a violation of international humanitarian law but jeopardises humanitarian operations and the provision of lifesaving assistance when it is needed most. Investigations and accountability for all attacks on medical and humanitarian staff in this conflict must be forthcoming. Perpetrators must be held accountable.

The consequences of the Russian aggression against Ukraine have been felt far beyond Europe. The war has affected food security and energy prices. We must not forget that Russia unilaterally decided to suspend the Black Sea Grain Initiative. After that, it launched more attacks on Odesa's ports, infrastructure, and grain storage depriving some of the world's most food insecure countries of Ukraine's grain.

The latest OHCHR report on the human rights situation in Ukraine refers to large-scale atrocities reportedly committed by Russian forces, including torture, sexual and gender-based violence, forced deportations of children, and summary executions. Additionally, the OHCHR has described that Russian authorities had carried out deliberate efforts to suppress expressions of Ukrainian cultural identity.



This is unacceptable and Malta reiterates its firm commitment in ensuring full accountability for this aggression and for all the other serious crimes committed, as well as for the massive damage caused by Russia's war.

We fully support victims' rights to justice and reparation, and the important work undertaken by the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine as an important first step.

In closing, Malta reiterates that the only way to achieve a just and lasting peace would be for Russia to immediately cease all hostilities. It must unconditionally and completely withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

I now resume my duties as President of the Council.