



Security Council briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security (TIPS): Ukraine, 12 April 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

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

I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

I begin by thanking Mr Fung for his briefing.

This is the 14th time that the Russian Federation has requested a meeting on this topic since September 2022. It is therefore crucial to recall the facts one more time.

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation decided to launch a war of aggression against Ukraine, in violation of the UN Charter and international law. More than two years have passed, and this senseless and illegal war persists. It continues to inflict devastating consequences on Ukraine and her people.



Today, Russia is once again trying to present the case that the inherent right to self-defence that is enshrined in Article 51 of the Charter and that applies to all Member States of this organisation should be suspended in Ukraine's case.

It is trying to convince us that Ukraine is not entitled to receive any assistance from its allies as it desperately tries to protect its citizens and its territory.

According to this reasoning, small countries, in this case Ukraine, should simply accept their fate when their larger more powerful neighbours decide to invade them, attack their cities, and annex their territory.

Such arguments are illogical and reprehensible. A world in which might is right is an unacceptable proposition.

On this occasion, we once again condemn the massive wave of missile and drone attacks targeting power and essential facilities in Ukraine. These attacks have left more than one million people without power these past weeks.



We stress once again the need for full accountability for all crimes committed against Ukraine.

Reports that Russia is using ballistic missiles originating from DPRK in Ukraine are deeply worrying. Such actions are in violation of multiple Council resolutions and the sanctions regime which prohibit any arms exports or imports involving the DPRK.

We also deplore the use of anti-personnel landmines and the transfer and use of cluster munitions in Ukraine. According to Ukrainian authorities, around 26% of the country's total area is potentially dangerous due to possible mining. We stress that the use of these inhumane weapons has severe and lasting humanitarian consequences.

Neither can we forget that Russia's aggression has resulted in over 6.5 million refugees around the world. Another 3.7 million remain displaced within the country.



In closing, we reiterate that Russia holds the key to ending this war. It can do so right now by withdrawing its military forces from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. Until then, Ukraine has the right to self-defence in line with the UN Charter and international law.

I now resume my duties as President of the Council.