



Security Council briefing on Maintenance of Peace and Security: Ukraine, 07 June 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

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I would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Msuya for her important briefing.

For more than two years, the Russian Federation has been persisting in its war of aggression against Ukraine. The scale of the humanitarian consequences caused by this war is hard to comprehend. It has displaced millions, many of whom continue to seek refuge. Also, it has left 14.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

The plight of thousands of Ukrainians has grown more desperate since Russian forces launched a new offensive into the Kharkiv region these past weeks. Numerous waves of withering attacks have caused the death and injury of civilians, including many children as well as causing the damage to civilian infrastructure.



More people have been displaced as a result of these attacks. This week authorities report that over 12,000 civilians from the Kharkiv region are fleeing their homes due to these attacks. According to OCHA, nearly 90 children have been killed and more than 320 injured in the region alone since the start of Russia's war.

President,

Last week, Russian forces struck several of Ukraine's energy facilities with missiles and drones. These air assaults targeted facilities in cities across the entire country – far away from the front lines, including some located near the borders with Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. Malta strongly condemns Russia's shelling campaign aimed to destroying energy facilities in Ukraine.

Every missile strike has left some form of devastation across Ukraine. Even if Russia decides to end its' war today, in many places, men, women and children have nothing to go back to. Malta urges the parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, and protect all civilians as well as civilian objects, including homes, schools, hospitals, grain houses, and other essential infrastructure.



President,

The intensification in hostilities continue to disrupt humanitarian operations across Ukraine, impacting relief efforts.

Additionally, Russia's bombardments have resulted in casualties of rescuers trying to save the very lives that they are trying to save. Since February 2022, WHO has verified 1,808 attacks on health care. This is unacceptable.

Malta reiterates that there must be no impunity for these crimes. The perpetrators of these actions must be held to account for the damage caused. We express our full support to the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, as well as to the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.



Forced displacement has exposed the most vulnerable, especially children, to various protection risks such as exploitation, abuse, violence and separation from their family. This has led to severe stress and psychological trauma. Women and girls, are also being affected disproportionately, being exposed to rural food insecurity and gender-based violence.

This important topic will be discussed at the ‘Summit on Peace in Ukraine’ to be held in Switzerland later this month. We fully support the summit and the efforts aimed at a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine based on international law and the UN Charter.

In closing, President, Malta calls upon Russia, once again to unconditionally and completely withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

Thank you.