



Security Council briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security (TIPS): Ukraine, 25 July 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

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Mr. President, I begin by thanking Mr. Ebo for the briefing.

It is deeply regrettable that the Russian Federation continues to try to justify its flagrant violations of international law and the principles of the UN Charter by requesting yet another meeting on Western arms deliveries to Ukraine.

Let us be clear. Western weapons are not the cause of this senseless war, nor the reason for its prolongation. Russia's unrelenting aggression against its neighbour is the sole reason for this conflict. If Russia had to withdraw from Ukraine today, the war would end today.

Until that day comes, Ukraine has no alternative but to exercise its right to defend itself. In the areas it has temporarily occupied, Russia has brought suffering, death, and destruction, not peace. To allow Russia to continue with these actions is to reward an open act of aggression being committed daily in full violation of the UN Charter.



For months, Ukraine's electricity grid has faced repeated Russian missile and drone attacks that have destroyed about half of the country's generating capacity. Knocked out power plants caused a widespread blackout across the entire country.

The continued and intensified attacks affecting civilians and civilian infrastructure are deeply concerning. The shelling against Kyiv and other urban centres on 8 July marked one of the worst days of violence against civilians in months, destroying two of the country's main specialist hospitals for children and women.

Furthermore, last week's attacks in the Donetsk Region and Mykolaiv City, destroyed homes and critical civilian infrastructure, killing, and injuring dozens of civilians.

We stress once again that attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure are against international humanitarian law, and must stop immediately. There must be full accountability for all crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine. We also support the ongoing work of the ICC and the Register of Damage for Ukraine.



Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, causing the largest displacement in Kharkiv and the Donetsk regions. According to OCHA, more than 14.6 million people require some form of humanitarian assistance.

Malta is also concerned about recent reports related to the use of cluster munitions and widespread contamination with mines and explosive remnants of war. Around 297 individuals have lost their lives due to mine explosions and other explosive hazards, including 15 children. Protecting the people of Ukraine and ensuring that recovery from the devastation caused by Russia's war require that demining happens without delay.

We are also deeply concerned over the mounting evidence of Russia's procurement and use of DPRK missiles against Ukraine. This is in clear violation of Security Council resolutions and the sanctions regime.

Malta welcomes the adoption of the GA resolution regarding the threats posed to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. It serves as a powerful message to ensure nuclear safety and security, and Ukraine's territorial integrity.



To conclude, President, Malta reiterates that the only path to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace is for Russia to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

I thank you.