



## Security Council briefing on Maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine, 28 August 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Francesca Gatt

Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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Thank you President, and I also thank (DPPA briefer tbc) for their briefing.

More than two years in, Russia war of aggression against Ukraine continues to demonstrate disregard for global peace and security, international law, and multilateralism.

As we speak, hostilities in the north-east of Ukraine continue unabated. Recent attacks in the Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, and Sumy regions are impacting civilians; causing damage, suffering and destruction to Ukraine and her people, who continue to suffer the brunt of war on a daily basis.

Specifically, the security situation in the Donetsk and Sumy regions has significantly worsened in recent weeks, with intense shelling by Russian forces against various cities. This escalation has led to the loss 16 civilians lives. 22 others have been injured.



Furthermore, local authorities have issued a mandatory evacuation for families with children in Pokrovsk as Russian troops approach. This underscores the severity of the threats faced by those living in the front-line communities.

No place in Ukraine is safe. On 20 August, an attack targeted a children's cafe in the Zaporizhzhia region, resulting in the loss of a 14-year-old boy and severe injuries to six other children. This attack further increases the mounting toll on civilian casualties, including children, due to Russia's use of banned weapons such as cluster munitions and explosive weapons in populated areas.

Malta calls upon all parties to respect international humanitarian law and ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and the humanitarian workers risking their lives to provide critical assistance in these challenging circumstances.

President



Malta is deeply concerned about the increasing attacks on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine by Russian forces, including the recent strike on 22 August against a Transit Center for newly displaced people in Pokrovsk, This resulted in serious damage and the eventual deactivation of the site due to security concerns.

We stress once again that civilians are not a target. Children are not a target. Civilian infrastructure, including humanitarian facilities, are not a target. They are protected under international humanitarian law.

We remain firm in our belief that those responsible for perpetrating serious crimes under international law must be held accountable. Perpetrators cannot, and must not, go unpunished.

To this end, we reiterate our full support to the mandate of the International Criminal Court, 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.



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To conclude, President, Malta will continue to call for the full respect of the UN Charter in response to Russia's war of aggression. We also reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

I thank you.