



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nations, New York
Security Council - 2021-2022

BRIEFING ON THE “MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY OF
UKRAINE”: THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH 2022
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MICHAEL KIBOINO, DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you Mr President,

I thank **USG Rosemary DiCarlo** for her briefing.

The briefing we have heard makes it clear that the war in Ukraine continues to cause extreme suffering to civilians far beyond what is acceptable under International Law and International Humanitarian Law.

We offer our condolences to all the families and communities that have lost loved ones to this war, including the incident that took place yesterday in Poland. We pray for the speedy recovery of those injured and traumatised.

We are gravely concerned by the persistent targeting of civilians and objects indispensable to their survival including residential homes, health facilities, shelters, as well as energy and water infrastructure.

This war that follows on a long-term political conflict, is a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and constitutes a breach of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter. The military alliances forming on either side are giving the war a regional and global footprint.

The risk of its escalation to the use of weapons of mass destruction suggests the ultimate inability of a clear military victory at a cost that is acceptable to humanity.

There is no long-term military solution. All that a continuation of the war will do is delay negotiations while even greater damage is happening. Kenya therefore once again calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Negotiations will not be easy, especially if they are to be fully in line with the UN Charter in protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. But they can succeed as others have in Europe's volatile history. It will also be critical that they be accompanied or followed by a broader settlement that stabilises what is now a profoundly compromised European security order.

Mr President, the world needs peace in Ukraine and in Europe. The humanitarian costs to the people of Ukraine are joined by those of millions around the world. We continue to applaud the humanitarian-inspired and UN-facilitated Black Sea Grain Initiative. We strongly urge for its renewal on permanent terms.

The flow of grains and fertilisers from Ukraine over the Black Sea and also from the Russian Federation over land corridors must be assured. Unfortunately, there are still unilateral blockages of food and fertiliser products despite the frequent assurances to the contrary.

We therefore urge the Secretary General to urgently undertake an assessment of official and unofficial blockages and to make that report available to the Security Council. The same should be done by humanitarian organisations such as the World Food Programme.

We also encourage regional organisations such as the European Union and the African Union, to review and report on the experiences of their member states in ensuring unimpeded exports of Ukrainian and Russian food and fertiliser to world markets.

Our region - the Horn of Africa is experiencing the worst drought in decades. We cannot afford to pay for exceedingly expensive fertilizer, if we are to avoid an even worse food insecurity situation in the coming year.

We must move from political assurances of the open flow of these vital goods, and transparently and rigorously assess and report the facts on the ground. Millions of lives depend on this August House going beyond rhetoric and guaranteeing practical effects.

Mr President, this crisis presents an opportunity. Africa is the most food insecure region in the world. Yet it has the largest amount of under-used arable land with a population that is still mostly rural based.

Too many African families use a disproportionate part of their incomes on purchasing food. It is a major component of the political instability that, sadly, leads to the continent having the most conflict situations being handled by the Security Council.

We now have a historic opportunity to put in place financial risk mitigation, technology transfers and investments, to transform agricultural productivity on the continent. While we commend the humanitarian efforts being made to offer relief, our target must be sufficient production.

The efficacy of the continent's cooperation agreements with other regions, and major powers, should be judged by the extent to which they lead to a surge in Africa's production of food and fertilizer, so that it is never again as vulnerable as it is today.

Mr. President, the more protracted this war is, the more its malign effects will spread. As more citizens suffer, in more countries, their political demands may lead to less worldwide solidarity with the suffering people of Ukraine.

Every country calling for this solidarity must look into its own conduct when it comes to enabling the free flow of food and fertiliser products and act with compassion and empathy for those who need them around the world.

In closing, Kenya once again reiterates its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine.

Thank you.