



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: “ATTEMPTED REFERENDA/ANNEXATION OF
TERRITORIES IN UKRAINE”**

TUESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN KIMANI,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Thank you Mr President,

I thank USG Rosemary DiCarlo for her briefing on the dire situation in Ukraine.

We send our heartfelt condolences to all Ukrainians who are suffering the physical, psychological and economic ravages of war.

We are very concerned with the reports of referenda being held in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia and their impact on Ukraine's status as a member of the United Nations and on international peace and security.

The Secretary General has stated clearly that, "any annexation of a State's territory by another State resulting from the threat or use of force is a violation of the UN Charter and of international law." This is the fundamental truth that should be heeded by the Russian Federation and all members of the United Nations. This is the fundamental truth that should be heeded by the Russian Federation, and all members of the United Nations.

The referenda will undermine the prospects of a longer-term negotiated peace settlement. By attempting to create a *fait accompli*, they will encourage those who increasingly put their faith in the strengthening of armed alliances in preparation for war.

As if this were not sufficiently alarming, we have heard serious threats being made of the use of weapons of mass destruction.

To pull back from the brink of disaster, Kenya calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities, and a stop to all attempts to unilaterally alter internationally recognised borders.

Mr President,

Our frequent briefings, debates and consultations on the situation in Ukraine are taking place as the economic and conflict situations in different parts of the world get worse.

Unfortunately, the most powerful actors are focusing far more on this conflict in Europe than on any other crisis. There appears to be little appetite, and, because of this war, even less unity, to deliver the reforms and policies that we all know are needed.

Mr President,

Bold action is required to halt the extreme food insecurity and even starvation in the world. The World Food Programme has calculated that in Eastern Africa, fertiliser prices have more than doubled in the last year. Fuel prices have also risen sharply. WFP calculates that the result will be a year-on-year decline of 16% in cereal production, representing 7.2 million metric tons.

In an already food insecure region, the impact will be to increase the number of hungry people by almost 7 million. This situation is reflected in other regions.

It is a matter of life and death for all actors to respond to this food insecurity crisis. The Black Sea Grain Initiative and the agreement to ensure unimpeded exports of Russian food and fertiliser to world markets were a promising start.

It is imperative that all institutions that are enforcing compliance with sanctions ensure that all unintended blockages are removed. There are sufficient reports of negative secondary effects on banking, insurance, transport and other critical enabling mechanisms.

We also urge major grain and fertiliser producers to avoid stockpiling and breaking delivery contracts. Ongoing plans to create emergency mechanisms, in this regard, may be at the serious detriment of global food security.

We urge that any efforts to design and deploy emergency food and energy security mechanisms be accompanied by planning for transformed food systems in the most food-insecure regions. A major part of this would be making the necessary investments in sharply increasing agricultural productivity, particularly in Africa.

Doing so is key to preventing cycles of humanitarian crises and the declining donor-funded responses to the worst of them. It will also allow investing in climate-change resilient food systems at a time when catastrophic effects are being experienced in multiple regions. Finally, greater production, increased storage and sufficient transport infrastructure will lead to low food prices and therefore more political stability.

Mr President,

The multilateral system cannot continue as it is today. The major powers are so bent on protecting and projecting their interests and security concerns, that they seem unable to act in the broader interests of our United Nations.

Today, the inarguable truth is that the protections afforded by membership of the United Nations are insufficient. Rather than the Charter granting us equality, we are governed by the destructive logic encapsulated by Thucydides saying that “the question of justice only enters where there is equal power to enforce it, and that the powerful exact what they can, and the weak suffer what they must.”

It is time that we sought real changes in global institutions including the United Nations Security Council. It is time for real inclusion and real fairness. We can start with procedural rules in the Council, and eventually to make changes to the Charter.

The reforms should not be limited to allowing only for other major powers to have a seat at the table. It is clear from the historical record that the voice and presence of developing countries with no major military interests to protect regionally or globally needs to be strengthened significantly.

A multilateralism founded on the principle of the powerful “exacting what they can”, while “the weak suffer what they must” is a poor protection against the scourge of war as we are all witness.

Mr President, Kenya reaffirms once more, its recognition of Ukraine’s sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

I thank you for your attention.