



The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
To the United Nations - New York
Security Council - 2021-2022

SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING

*THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: BLACK SEA GRAIN
INITIATIVE*

STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

MONDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2022

Thank you, Mr. President,

I thank **USG Martin Griffiths** and **Ms. Rebeca Grynspan** for their briefings.

Mr. President,

We regret the news that the Russian Federation has withdrawn from the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

The world is hungry. This development makes life harsher for millions who are not party to the war in Ukraine. It undermines global food security, particularly in the most fragile countries and regions.

The operationalisation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative was a credit to humanitarian diplomacy between Ukraine and the Russian Federation using the good offices of the

UN Secretary General and of the government of Türkiye. We cannot overstate its importance to the world.

It has enabled approximately 9 million tonnes of Ukrainian grain to be exported. Partly as a result of its impact on markets, the FAO Food Price Index declined to 136.3 last month sharply lower from a record high of 159.7 in March. The lowest level since February when the conflict in Ukraine started. The same Index shows that the prices of global food staples have declined by about 8.6% in July, about 2% in August and just above 1% in September. Cumulatively, this has helped improve global access to food, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Mr. President,

With this welcome trend in mind, we do not believe that the reported drone attack on the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol on 29th October should endanger global food security. We therefore call for immediate action to deploy a UN fact-finding and verification mission to report on any armed or blockading actions related to the war in Ukraine that endanger global food security.

Last week, on the 26th, during a Security Council discussion on Article 100 of the UN Charter, our delegation urged of the need for heightened respect for the good offices and fact-finding capabilities of the Secretary General.

Today's discussion starkly illustrates why our recommendations need to be adopted. If the past ten months are any guide, members of this Council will now be subjected to claims and counter-claims about the Sevastopol drone attack. They will not be verifiable, and therefore the chances of Security Council action will be limited if not impossible. It will also sustain an unfortunate trend of the Council being used primarily as a platform for propaganda not for deliberation that aids its mandate to protect international peace and security.

Resolution 46/59 (of 1991) recognises the need for the Security Council to have knowledge of all relevant facts in performing functions relevant to its mandate. It further recognises the Secretary General's fact-finding capabilities and requires him to monitor the state of international peace and security, making use of the information-gathering capabilities of the Secretariat.

We would welcome the Secretary General establishing a fact-finding mission on the drone attack to better inform this Council.

One of the reasons for the ongoing food insecurity is the volatility in insurance markets for shipping of food stuffs due to the extensive disinformation and misinformation that characterises this war. A fact-finding mechanism would, at a minimum, provide more accurate signals to the food and financial markets on the risks of armed actions to shipping.

Finally, Mr. President,

We again propose that the conflicting parties, and their allies and partners, make use of the Secretary General's good offices for the mediation and resolution of the conflict in Ukraine, and in stabilising the wider European security order. We further reaffirm Kenya's commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and, as such, its respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity.

Thank you.