



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

BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE – “THE FIGHT
AGAINST IMPUNITY IN UKRAINE”

THURSDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER 2022

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GEORGE ORINA,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL - MULTILATERAL MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Thank you,

Madam President. Kenya's delegation commends you and France for the able stewardship of the Security Council during the month of September.

I thank Secretary General António Guterres and Mr. Karim Khan for their updates on the situation in Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine is a serious breach of the United Nations Charter. The obligation to respect the territorial integrity of all member states will be further undermined should any action be taken to change the legal character of areas in Eastern Ukraine.

We are in a moment of grave danger to international peace and security. The escalation of the war that the International Community feared is underway. There are now clear threats being issued about the potential deployment of weapons of mass destruction in this conflict.

On the battlefield, civilians are being subjected to serious harm in contravention of fundamental international law and human rights obligations. It is a priority of the utmost urgency that national authorities subject their soldiers to severe disciplinary action for any abuses especially on civilians and captured combatants. Military commanders should surrender those suspected for such atrocities to the relevant authorities for prosecution.

All the parties, including those making allegations of human rights abuses or those against whom the allegations are made, should agree to prompt, independent, and impartial investigations.

Even as we justly condemn and call for accountability of war-related violations, we know that the truest protection of civilians is to stop the war. In this regard, Kenya calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Active hostilities should be replaced by a mediated agreement that secures the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine while addressing the security concerns of all parties and regional stakeholders.

Madam President,

The situation in Ukraine is highlighting the need for serious reforms of the United Nations Security Council. His Excellency Dr. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, in his speech yesterday to the General Assembly, called for the democratisation of the Security Council if its damaged legitimacy is not to be totally destroyed.

Our President made the clarion call that it was time that the Council more powerfully heeded the voice and place of Africa through reform of its membership. He welcomed President Joe Biden's announcement calling for the permanent and non-permanent membership of the Council to be expanded.

If there is a major result the world needs from Ukraine, beyond peace and security for the people of Ukraine, it is for such an announcement to lead to real change.

The farmers, villagers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, traders, and workers of Africa need their livelihoods protected from the climate crisis. They need the many serious conflicts on the Security Council agenda solved and not relegated to the margins because of Ukraine. Who will protect their interests in the Security Council by having the means from an amended UN Charter? Only permanent membership by African states will do.

In this regard, we call on the entire permanent membership to commit to fully embracing reforms. It is the only way the people of the world will consider this institution legitimate enough to earn their regard and cooperation.

Madam President,

I conclude by saluting individuals, institutions and governments as well as UN bodies and agencies that continue to help alleviate the suffering of those affected by the war in Ukraine.

I reaffirm Kenya's respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

I thank you for your attention.