



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

BRIEFING ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN UKRAINE

THURSDAY, MAY 12TH 2022

**STATEMENT BY AMB. MICHAEL KIBOINO, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE**

Thank you Mr. President,

1. I thank **ASG Ms. Joyce Msuya** and **Deputy ED Mr Omar Abdi** for their briefings. I also welcome the participation of the Representatives of Ukraine, Estonia, Poland, and Slovakia.

Madam President,

2. The humanitarian catastrophe in Ukraine is deeply disturbing. We do not think that it is inevitable that it should continue. But, we fear that the Council is settling into a familiar tragic pattern. The military conflict is becoming a protracted affair in which the civilian population continues to suffer gravely.

3. And rather than diplomacy, negotiation and ceasefire being sought with ambition, far too much energy and attention are being used to make and defend accusations of violations of international humanitarian law.
4. We are forced to restate the obvious: that our primary responsibility, as the Security Council, is to protect international peace and security. Of course, our efforts to advance the humanitarian aims in conflict are critically important, but the primary responsibility of the Council remains international peace and security.
5. We must therefore urge the Council, and all its members, to make every effort to find a path to negotiating peace for Ukraine and its suffering people. A peace that respects and protects Ukraine's rights as a member state of the United Nations.
6. The unfolding political situation in Europe, with alliances rapidly developing that may entrench differences, needs to be stabilised for the sake of international peace and security. If the Security Council and the International Community truly embrace the preventive approach, then this is a priority. It is also the best guard against the humanitarian crises that will emerge as a result of a broadening of the war in the future.

Mr. President,

7. In regard to the present humanitarian developments, Kenya condemns the recent attacks on civilian objects including the reported bombing

of a school in Luhansk that is believed to be sheltering about 90 civilians.

8. We again urge all parties to prioritise the protection of schools and other critical civilian infrastructure in accordance with international humanitarian law.
9. We commend the Secretary General for his efforts that resulted in the recent round of evacuations to safety of more than 170 people that were trapped in the Azovstal steel plant and other areas of Mariupol.

Mr. President,

10. We must not forget that this war is impacting economies and vulnerable people around the world. The disruption of food and energy supply chain is compounding the food and energy insecurity especially in fragile contexts and driving millions deeper into poverty and humanitarian crises. We therefore appeal for enhanced support for other humanitarian situations particularly in the Global South.
11. In line with the Secretary General's recommendations on the basis of assessments by his Global Crisis Response Group, states should resist export restrictions, and make reserves available to countries with serious food insecurity.
12. We urge states, UN agencies and the International Financial Institutions to urgently implement the Secretary General's

recommendations. Time and boldness are of the essence if this war is not to lead to the escalation of multiple crises worldwide.

13. **Mr. President**, in closing, we call on the parties to the war in Ukraine, and their allies and partners, to give more effort to achieving a meaningful cessation of hostilities. In the meantime, we strongly urge Ukraine and the Russian Federation to offer guarantees for safe humanitarian passages for trapped civilians particularly in Eastern Ukraine.

I thank you.