



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

## BRIEFING ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN UKRAINE

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2022 (10:00AM)

STATEMENT BY MS. JAYNE TOROITICH  
POLITICAL COORDINATOR

---

**Thank you, Madam President,**

I thank Under-Secretary General, Mr. Martin Griffiths for his briefing.

We remain concerned by the persisting humanitarian suffering in Ukraine.

It is a shocking statistic that an estimated 40 per cent of Ukraine's power-generation capacity has been damaged or destroyed by direct attacks.

This means that the country's energy infrastructure will not meet the needs of civilians in the coming winter season, no doubt sharply increasing their suffering.

We condemn all attacks on civilian infrastructure, and in particular water and power infrastructure. We also note, and condemn, attacks on residential buildings and other civilian objects.

Our repeated calls for a cessation of hostilities and dialogue leading to a mediated settlement have not been heeded.

Indeed, the strategic considerations by all combatants, and their allies, indicate their continuing resistance to negotiation.

If this persists, then we must insist on minimising the harm to civilians by all actors agreeing to a humanitarian exception.

We welcome the recent agreement by all parties to roll over the Black Sea Grain initiative. We also applaud the efforts by the Secretary General to remove obstacles to exporting food and fertilisers, including those from the Russian Federation.

This initiative anchored by Turkiye and the UN is the clearest example of the humanitarian exception.

**Madam President,**

The humanitarian consequences of this war are not limited to Ukraine. Our own food security in Africa has deteriorated and may get worse if fertiliser costs remain high due to the war.

The fact is that since March, the transit and trans-shipment in ports of Russian fertilisers and raw materials through nearby countries have fallen by almost 90%.

Overall, Russian fertiliser supplies to world markets have decreased sharply leading to the rise in prices. The consequences are being felt in family's dining tables as farmers pass on their higher costs and grow less food.

The challenges will grow as the strategic grain reserves of several wealthy countries run low.

They will probably return to the food markets to restock next year and in 2024, at a time when African farmers may still be struggling to afford fertiliser.

The food prices in such a scenario will rise so sharply that widespread humanitarian suffering will be the result. We can recall the violent uprisings of 2011, which were credibly linked to high food prices. Similar ones may occur in the next few years, with results similar to the spread of terrorism that followed the political turmoil in 2011.

In other words, high fertiliser prices leading to further food insecurity and poverty may manifest as threats to regional and international peace and security.

We therefore urge the Secretary General, the World Food Programme, and related institutions, to link food and security. If they do so, they will realise the need to redouble their efforts to comprehensively open up the flow of phosphates, ammonia and other fertiliser components.

The clearest metric of success is a return to the production levels prior to the war.

There must also be more visible action against the fear of sanctions exposure by the banking and insurance industries in dealing with food and fertiliser supply chains.

Countries through which these goods are shipped must remove all official and unofficial blockading actions to reflect their humanitarian responsibility.

**Madam President,**

Of course, the most humanitarian action is for the military attack on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity to stop. As long as the war persists, it can easily escalate to the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Such an escalation would no doubt exponentially increase the suffering of Ukrainians and hundreds of millions of others around the world.

It is time for responsible leadership that has an appetite for prevention and mitigation of the risk of escalation. Such leadership will embrace discreet and even secret diplomatic channels. It will act on the understanding that peace in Europe requires a fundamental reset of the European security order. It will know the limits of using military means to rebuild that order, given the risks of escalation. It will have the political courage to pursue a practical strategic outcome for security and stability.

Given the evidence since March, the Security Council will only endorse and give further legality to agreements reached.

While waiting for such a welcome development, the Council must redouble its attention to the humanitarian situation arising from the war. Reports by the

Secretariat need to inform the Council of the humanitarian impacts, not only in Ukraine but globally in regard to food and energy security.

If the blockages continue, then the Council should pass a resolution that all countries remove all barriers to the export and shipment of food and fertiliser products as key to the prevention of insecurity and threats to international peace.

Thank you.