



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

OPEN MEETING ON THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY

MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 2022 – 10:00AM

STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you, Madam President,

I thank Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo for her briefing, and I welcome the participation of the Representatives of Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Poland.

Kenya abstained on the procedural vote to hold this meeting.

We did so to reflect our conviction that the main issue in contention here is the impasse between NATO and the Russian Federation. We believe that it is imminently solvable and that the diplomatic steps underway already show promise.

This, rather than escalation in search of a winner-take-all outcome, is what is required to protect international peace and security.

Kenya has always maintained that the respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries is a cornerstone of global peace. Where there are disputes regarding territorial jurisdiction or security interests, we strongly support patient diplomacy as the first, second, and third option.

When the dispute is between major powers, and regards the security of a third country, it is imperative that they embrace a spirit of compromise.

We believe that the United States, NATO and the Russian Federation have an opportunity to establish a diplomatic framework that will allow them to resolve their differences. Their security, and that of the entire world, depends on them willingly taking this step. Not in ushering in a new age of containment, provocation, and proxy actions.

Compromise is not surrender. The special powers given to the Security Council's permanent members demands that they embrace this principle if the United Nations is not to go the way of the doomed League of Nations.

Africa recalls the rejections of compromise, and the search for total victory, that led to the Cold War. We experienced it as a series of hot wars and interventions that deeply damaged our dreams for peace, development, and competent, inclusive government.

Our internal divisions and fragilities were weaponised at the altar of geopolitical rivalry. It confirmed the truth of the African saying that recognises “when Elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers.”

Madam President,

Given that the majority of the conflict situations the Security Council deals with are in Africa, we do not want them to serve as surrogates for a new Cold War. We in Africa, therefore, have a direct stake in de-escalation and renewed faith in diplomacy.

We have serious challenges to solve together. Rarely has the world more urgently needed a United Nations that can deliver ambitiously.

Madam President,

Kenya believes that there is still plenty of opportunity for the Normandy Format talks, the Trilateral Contact Group on

Ukraine, and the direct negotiations between the United States and the Russian Federation to produce a satisfactory outcome. We urge all these parties to ensure that their negotiations respect the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Faith in innovative diplomacy may also allow for agreements between today's major powers inspired by the 1975 Helsinki Accords, which did deliver some stability to Europe during the Cold War. This time however, such agreements need to advance the principle of non-interference to other parts of the world and particularly to Africa.

Madam President,

In closing, it is critical that diplomacy and its acceptance of compromise as an outcome win the day. If there are future discussions to be held in the Security Council on this matter, let it be to announce a new era of cooperation. **I thank you.**