## 20. Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine

During the period under review, the Council held 17 meetings under the item entitled "Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine", all of which took the form of briefings.<sup>625</sup> One of the meetings was held jointly under this item and the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security".<sup>626</sup> The Council did not adopt any decision in relation to this item.<sup>627</sup> More information on the meetings, including on participants and speakers, is provided in the table below. In addition to the meetings, Council members also held informal consultations of the whole in connection with this item.<sup>628</sup>

In 2023, the Council considered the latest developments of the war in Ukraine, including the political process to end the conflict, the humanitarian situation in the country, issues related to nuclear safety and security, the implementation and extension of the Black Sea Grain initiative and the impact of the war on global food insecurity. Other topics covered during the briefings and discussions were mass displacement of the population and refugee crisis, allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and violations of human rights. In addition to Ukraine, the representatives of Austria, Belarus, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Türkiye and the European Union participated in one or more of the meetings held under this item.

In 2023, the Council heard one briefing by the Secretary-General,<sup>629</sup> six briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs,<sup>630</sup> five briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator,<sup>631</sup> three briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>625</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. I.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>626</sup> See <u>S/PV.9340.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>627</sup> For more information on the format of meetings, see part II, sect. II. B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>628</sup> See <u>A/78/2</u>, part II, chap. 39.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>629</sup> See S/PV.9269.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>630</sup> See S/PV.9243, S/PV.9357, S/PV.9380, S/PV.9382, S/PV.9404 and S/PV.9431.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>631</sup> See <u>S/PV.9254</u>, <u>S/PV.9286</u>, <u>S/PV.9321</u>, <u>S/PV.9340</u> and <u>S/PV.9382</u>.

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Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations,<sup>632</sup> and two briefings by the Director for Coordination, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs<sup>633</sup>. The Council also heard briefings by the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations,<sup>634</sup> the Representative and Country Director in Ukraine of the World Food Programme,<sup>635</sup> as well as three civil society representatives.<sup>636</sup>

At the first meeting under this item, held on 13 January, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs briefed the Council on intensified air strikes and ground fighting in Ukraine.<sup>637</sup> She commended European countries for hosting 7.9 million people and encouraged equitable access to rights and services for refugees in national systems. The Under-Secretary-General reported on the efforts of humanitarian operations and noted severe access constraints particularly, in the areas in the east under Russian control. She welcomed however, the contacts and commitment of the parties to continue exchanges of prisoners of war including the meeting hosted in Türkiye between the Russian and Ukrainian ombudspersons on that issue. She also acknowledged the role of the Black Sea Grain Initiative in alleviating global food prices despite the challenging context. She underlined that the United Nations also continued its engagement with all stakeholders to remove remaining obstacles to Russian food and fertilizer exports to keep prices down and to mitigate food insecurity.

In his briefing at the meeting held on 6 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator's briefing focused on the widespread death, destruction, displacement and deprivation caused by the war.<sup>638</sup> With almost 40% of Ukraine's population requiring humanitarian assistance, over 7,000 confirmed civilian casualties, and millions displaced, the humanitarian community faced ongoing challenges amid winter conditions. Providing insights into the humanitarian efforts, the Under-Secretary-General

<sup>636</sup> See <u>S/PV.9382</u> and <u>S/PV.9404</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>632</sup> See <u>S/PV.9414</u>, <u>S/PV.9483</u> and <u>S/PV.9494</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>633</sup> See <u>S/PV.9386</u> and <u>S/PV.9523</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>634</sup> See <u>S/PV.9386</u> and <u>S/PV.9523</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>635</sup> See <u>S/PV.9483.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>637</sup> See <u>S/PV.9243.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>638</sup> See <u>S/PV.9254</u>.

reported an exponential expansion of humanitarian operations, reaching 15.8 million people with assistance over the past year. He reminded all parties in Ukraine to spare civilians and civilian objects throughout their military operations and to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need. The Under-Secretary-General concluded his briefing by noting the positive impact of the Black Sea Grain Initiative on global supply chains and urged international cooperation to address the profound implications of the war on food and energy prices, trade, supply chains, and nuclear safety.

At a meeting held on 24 February, on the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the Secretary-General informed the Council that the invasion and widespread death, destruction and displacement had left millions of people in need of humanitarian assistance, caused a significant loss of jobs, led to food insecurity, and caused an unprecedented displacement crisis.<sup>639</sup> He noted that the Russian Federation was also experiencing deadly consequences due to this crisis. Affirming the need for peace in line with the United Nations Charter and international law, he called for action on many fronts; he said that the protection of civilians must remain a top priority, that the attacks on civilian infrastructure had to stop, that the use of explosive weapons in populated areas should end, and that safe and unimpeded humanitarian access for life-saving assistance must be ensured. He also urged all parties to come to an agreement on the implementation of a nuclear safety and security protection zone at the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant. While acknowledging progress under the Black Sea Grain Initiative in reconnecting food supplies to global chains, he emphasized the importance of maintaining engagement and extending the initiative beyond March 2023.

At a meeting held on 17 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator emphasized the signing of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the parallel memorandum of understanding between the Russian Federation and the United Nations on the facilitation of the second agreement of Russian food and fertilizer exports as a critical step in reversing the trend of increasing global food and fertilizer prices and in the broader fight against global food insecurity.<sup>640</sup> Noting that under the Initiative, close to 25

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>639</sup> See S/PV.9269.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>640</sup> See S/PV.9286.

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million metric tons of foodstuffs had been safely exported from Ukraine, he highlighted the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trade and Development and the Secretary-General in ensuring the continuity of the Black Sea Grain Initiative. The Under-Secretary-General also highlighted the challenges posed by the unstable global economy and growing poverty and underscored that the scale of humanitarian needs had vastly outpaced available resources. He called for closed collaboration amongst the humanitarian and development communities and the international financial institutions to seek sustainable solutions to spiraling humanitarian needs, and, in this context, urged a political solution to the war in Ukraine.

At a meeting on 15 May, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, speaking from Geneva, briefed the Council on the extensive humanitarian impact of the war and complex humanitarian environment on the ground.<sup>641</sup> He reported that in the first quarter of the year, nearly 3.6 million people received humanitarian assistance in Ukraine and around 43 inter-agency convoys had delivered supplies to around 280,000 people in front-line areas. He noted limitations on the delivery of aid and in reaching all the areas in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhya that were under Russian military control. He urged the parties to reinforce and strengthen their efforts to ensure that humanitarian personnel had the freedom of movement required for such work and to reach all civilians in need. He noted, however, that the export of ammonia had yet to be realized and that owing to the challenging dynamics within the Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul, there had been a reduction in the volumes of exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports and a slowdown in operations. In that context, he highlighted the intensive discussions by the United Nations with the parties to secure agreement on its extension and improvements for its effective and predictable operations.

At a meeting on 6 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Council on the unfolding catastrophe in Ukraine's Kherson region after the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant dam. He noted

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>641</sup> See S/PV.9321.

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that this was one of the most significant incidents of damage to civilian infrastructure since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.<sup>642</sup> He pointed out that the magnitude of the catastrophe would have grave and far-reaching consequences in southern Ukraine, on both sides of the front line, through the loss of homes, food, safe water and livelihoods. In this context, he emphasized that immediate humanitarian needs were expected to grow as floodwaters moved over the coming days while assessments of the situation and the response continued. He expressed particular concern about the risks of mine and explosive ordnance contamination as fast-moving water shifted projectiles to areas previously assessed as safe. He underlined that the United Nations has no access to independent information on the circumstances that led to the destruction in the hydroelectric power plant and dam, and the consequences of not being able to deliver assistance to the millions of people affected by the flooding in those areas were potentially catastrophic and, at present, unmeasured.

In her briefing at the meeting held on 23 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacekeeping Affairs informed the Council that since her last briefing,<sup>643</sup> the war had escalated and had become more fluid and unpredictable. <sup>644</sup> Expressing grave concern about the intensifying violence on civilians, she emphasized that the damage to the Kakhovka dam was the most significant destruction of civilian infrastructure to date with massive adverse consequences. The flooding had affected 80 communities, posing risks of landmines, waterborne diseases, and agricultural setbacks. She reported that the United Nations was engaged in assessing the extent of environmental and ecological needs and with its humanitarian partners, was providing an immediate response in the affected region, delivering supplies and evacuation support. Deeply disturbed by the reported shelling on evacuating civilians and emergency personnel and by the denial of access to low-lying communities under Russian control, she urged the Russian authorities to act in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law and to ensure safe and unfettered access to all areas in need. She also expressed concern about the reported damage to the Togliatti-Odesa pipeline and reiterated that attacks on civilians and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>642</sup> See <u>S/PV.9340.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>643</sup> See <u>S/PV.9357</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>644</sup> See <u>S/PV.9243</u>.

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civilian infrastructure were prohibited under international law and as such, must stop immediately, whether they were on Ukrainian, Russian or Russian-controlled territory. She reported on documented cases of conflict-related sexual violence and cases of forcible transfers of protected persons, including children, to areas of Ukraine under Russian control and their deportation to Russia. Concerning human rights, she welcomed the continued efforts by the parties to enable the return of prisoners of war and called on both sides to fulfill their obligations regarding the treatment of prisoners of war and other detainees. She also expressed disappointment by the slowing pace of implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and urged all obstacles be removed to ensure the continuation of the agreement. Warning about the impact of a major conflict in Ukraine and the effect it could have on the region and beyond, she noted that the announced deployment of Russian tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus and the accompanying rhetoric had further increased regional tensions. She urged all involved to act responsibly and in accordance with international obligations and reiterated that any threat to use nuclear weapons was unacceptable.

At a meeting on 17 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacekeeping Affairs informed the Council that more than 500 days after the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, life in Ukraine remained a "living hell".<sup>645</sup> According to reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 9,287 civilians were killed and 16,834 injured, including 537 children killed and 1,117 injured – which were only the confirmed statistics. Recent missile strikes and bombardments were reported in cities, including Kramatorsk, Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv, Lyman and Orikhiv, and the region of Sumy. The conflict disproportionally affected children, making Ukraine the country with the highest number of child casualties and attacks on schools and hospitals in 2022. The humanitarian response continued, with over 5 million people reached, but the continued lack of humanitarian access to Russiancontrolled areas of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions deprived an estimated 3.7 million people from aid delivery. She further reported that the flooding caused by the destruction of the Kakhovka dam had affected local ecosystems, exposed military and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>645</sup> See <u>S/PV.9380</u>.

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hazardous waste, and shifted landmines. The United Nations was undertaking a post-disaster needs assessment in communities along the Dnipro River to determine the wider impact in support of a comprehensive recovery strategy.

At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General expressed concern at reports of a series of explosions in the vicinity of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant and urged all parties to avoid actions that could further escalate tensions. She further informed the Council that Ukraine had become one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. The Under-Secretary-General also reported on a harrowing record of documented human rights violations by the OHCHR, including arbitrary deprivation of life, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, ill-treatment and conflict-related sexual violence. Expressing grave concern about the alleged summary execution of 77 arbitrarily detained civilians by the Russian Federation, she called for stopping the arbitrary detention of civilians and for the immediate release of all persons held arbitrarily. She urged the Russian Federation to guarantee the independent monitors' regular, unimpeded and confidential access to all detainees, including from the OHCHR.

During her briefing at the meeting held on 21 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacekeeping Affairs reiterated deep regret regarding the decision by the Russian Federation to terminate its participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative, including the withdrawal of Russian security guarantees for navigation in the north-western part of the Black Sea.<sup>646</sup> She informed the Council that as a result of this decision, food prices were rising around the globe, adding to existing agricultural, energy and financial crises. She strongly condemned a series of missile and drone attacks launched by the Russian Federation on Ukraine's Black Sea ports in Odesa, Chernomorsk and Mykolayiv cities, destroying critical port infrastructure, facilities and grain supplies and reportedly resulting in civilian casualties and injuries. She warned that the new wave of attacks on Ukrainian ports could have a far-reaching impact on global food insecurity, particularly in developing countries, and stressed that attacks on civilian infrastructure may constitute a violation of international humanitarian law. She also expressed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>646</sup> See S/PV.9382.

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concern regarding reports of mines being laid in the Black Sea, endangering civilian navigation, and strongly encouraged refraining from any further rhetoric or action that could worsen an already dangerous situation.

At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator expressed disappointment about the Russian Federation's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Russian strikes on Ukrainian port facilities, and escalatory rhetoric that threatened to undermine the safe transportation of food through the Black Sea. He emphasized the importance of continued engagement to ensure that food and fertilizer exports from Ukraine and Russia could continue to reach global markets and urged the Council to make every effort to restore the hope and spirit represented by the agreements.

Following his briefing, an independent macroeconomist requested by the Russian Federation provided an economic assessment of all agreements on the grain deal. He highlighted that the impact of the deal on global markets, especially for Ukrainian grain, was not significant, given the prevailing market conditions and the nature of the exported grains. Regarding Russia's role in the second part of the grain deal, he expressed concern that its withdrawal from grain exports, influenced by sanctions, could lead to market collapse, affecting prices and causing grain shortages. Additionally, restrictions on Russian fertilizer exports might result in a significant decline in harvests worldwide. In conclusion, he stated that problems related to the implementation of all the agreements on the grain deal existed and in terms of impact on both general global markets and on the humanitarian front, the limitations for Russia were far more dangerous than for Ukrainian exports. He also stated that the deal on Russia's participation would have had much greater consequences for food market prices and the humanitarian situation than the deal with Ukraine.

During his briefing at the meeting held on 26 July, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations reported on a wave of missile and drone strikes in the cities of Odesa, Mylolayiv and Chernomorsk.<sup>647</sup> He briefed the Council on the reports of Russian strikes against

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>647</sup> See S/PV.9386.

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port infrastructure, including grain storage facilities in the Reni and Izmail ports of the Danube River, targeting food export infrastructure and underscored that these attacks, like all attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, may constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.

At a meeting held on 24 August, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacekeeping Affairs briefed on the growing tensions and threats to the freedom of navigation in the Black Sea, destruction of Ukrainian cultural sites, and the environmental disaster caused by the Kakhovka dam breach.<sup>648</sup> She also expressed concern about the possible impact on civilians of the shelling of Russian border communities and drone attacks deep in Russia, including Moscow. In addition, she focused her briefing on the impact of the war on women and the efforts of the United Nations to ensure gender mainstreaming in its humanitarian response, including promoting women's empowerment and leadership, and prioritizing protection from gender-based violence. She highlighted that despite challenges, Ukrainian women stood at the forefront of humanitarian responses and women-led civil society organizations were among the first to respond. Her briefing also emphasized human rights violations, particularly conflict-related sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals. She welcomed the signing of a plan by the United Nations and the Government of Ukraine to prevent grave violations against children, regretting that the United Nations still did not have the necessary access to verify allegations of violations against children in the territory of Ukraine under Russian control or in the Russian Federation.

Following her briefing, a legal expert at the Regional Center for Human Rights, invited by the United States, addressed the Council on the issue of the unlawful deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children. She drew attention to the imposition of Russian citizenship on Ukrainian children and underscored the violations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, discrimination, and potential crimes against humanity resulting from the forced transfer of children. She called on the Russian Federation to facilitate the return of Ukrainian children and urged the Security Council to assist in defining the obligations of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>648</sup> See <u>S/PV.9404</u>.

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international community regarding their repatriation. The second briefer, the chief executive officer of Save Ukraine, who spoke in a language other than an official language of the Security Council,<sup>649</sup> informed the Council that since 2014, almost 1 million Ukrainian children who ended up in the occupied territories (of Crimea and Donbas) were deported to the Russian Federation and actively re-educated and reprogrammed through intimidation, threats and coercion, with a strict ban on any manifestations of Ukrainian identity. <sup>650</sup> From 24 February 2022, he stated that 20 percent of the children had been lost, either remaining in the occupied territories or forcibly deported, of which his organization managed to identify 20,000 children. In addition to sharing the stories of children that his organization had rescued including messages from mothers and children, he concluded that Ukraine needed justice, and the children needed to return home and be reunited with their families and homeland. He requested for the international community's attention, support and help, both in attaining justice and to solve this pressing and painful issue.

At a meeting held on 8 September, the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations briefed on the latest Russian attacks directed against civilians and civilian infrastructure reporting a missile strike on a crowded market in Kostiantynivka, a drone attack on the Danube port of Izmail and attacks targeting Ukraine's grain infrastructure on the Black Sea and Danube river ports.<sup>651</sup> He also placed emphasis on the illegal attempt by the Russian Federation to annex Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions of Ukraine through the organization of illegal referendums, recalling General Assembly resolution ES-11/4.<sup>652</sup> In that regard he expressed concern about reports of the Russian Federation holding so-called elections in areas of Ukraine under Russian control and underscored that those so-called elections have no legal grounds.

During her briefing at the meeting held on 9 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacekeeping affairs informed the Council that the small village of Hroza in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>649</sup> For more information regarding the official and working languages of the Council, see part II, sec. IX.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>650</sup> See <u>S/2023/624</u> and its Annex.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>651</sup> See <u>S/PV.9414.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>652</sup> For more information regarding the relations between the Council and the General Assembly, see part IV, sect. I.

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Kharkiv region had suffered one of the deadliest attacks on civilians since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.<sup>653</sup> She underscored that civilians and civilian infrastructure across Ukraine had remained under nearly constant fire and ongoing attacks on grain facilities posed severe threats to food security globally. In that context, extending her concern about the renewed attacks against Ukrainian energy infrastructure, she condemned those attacks and called for accountability. She stated that most of OHCHR-reported human rights violations were attributed to the Russian armed forces.

At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator updated the Council on the joint efforts by the United Nations and humanitarian actors to deliver immediate assistance to survivors of the attack in Hroza. Echoing the condemnation by the Secretary-General of the attack on civilians, she stressed that, under international humanitarian law, attacks directed at civilians or civilian objects or that were indiscriminate were strictly prohibited and the parties must take constant care to spare all civilians and civilian infrastructure as well as humanitarian facilities and assets.

At a meeting held on 31 October, the Director for Coordination of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that more than 9,900 civilians had been killed since the start of the invasion and that damage to and destruction of critical infrastructure continued to affect the civilian population's access to electricity, heating, water and telecommunications. <sup>654</sup> The number of humanitarian workers killed had more than tripled in 2023. Approximately 18 million people, over 40 percent of Ukraine's population, required humanitarian assistance, and ten million remained displaced.

During his briefing on 21 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia, and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations reported on death and destruction caused by the recent Russian aerial attacks and warned the Council about the remaining risks of escalation and spillover in the Black Sea.<sup>655</sup> He warned that policies aimed at forcefully changing or imposing institutions and identities had far-reaching consequences and were unacceptable. Following his briefing, the Representative

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>653</sup> See S/PV.9431.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>654</sup> See <u>S/PV.9464.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>655</sup> See S/PV.9483.

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and Country Director for Ukraine of the World Food Programme briefed about the humanitarian consequences of the invasion and in particular, the impact on food security both domestically and globally. He reported that due to hostilities, Ukrainians were facing challenges accessing food markets and the war was driving food insecurity inside the country. He noted that the country's humanitarian needs were fundamentally linked to the consequences of the war on agriculture and rural food-producing communities. In that regard, he proposed a threefold approach in addressing the crisis: addressing urgent humanitarian food needs, focusing on the food system recovery efforts, and ensuring a viable market for Ukrainian food production.

At a meeting held on 6 December, the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations informed the Council on intensifying Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy facilities amid freezing winter temperatures, ongoing assaults on civilian infrastructure and mass displacement of the population reported globally.<sup>656</sup> He placed emphasis on women and children, highlighting the lasting trauma and heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence. Reminding the Council that all four of the nuclear power plants in Ukraine remained at risk, he stressed the need for safe operations and protection against potentially catastrophic consequences. Despite reports of increased shipments in the Black Sea, he added that the war continued to pose risks to civilian navigation and to Ukraine's grain export capacity.

At the same meeting, the Director for Coordination of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs emphasized that the number of deaths, injuries and level of destruction of civilian infrastructure were staggering. Reporting on the efforts providing humanitarian support to civilians with services and supplies, he noted that the lack of access remained the biggest challenge. In that connection, he expressed concern for front-line communities regarding the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnances and underscored the importance of humanitarian mine action to prevent further civilian casualties, especially among children. He added that high levels of agricultural exports from the Russian Federation continued as well as the transportation of the first tranche of grain donations pledged to six African countries as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>656</sup> See <u>S/PV.9494.</u>

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reported by the Russian Federation. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of ensuring that all sources of food exports were safely and sustainably connected to global supply chains.

At a meeting held on 29 December, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations briefed the Council on the latest aerial attack by the Russian Federation, which reportedly launched 158 missiles and drones in several waves across Ukraine. <sup>657</sup> The attack resulted in the deaths of at least 30 civilians, injured over 160 civilians, and caused extensive damage to a wide range of civilian infrastructure, including residential buildings, a maternity hospital, schools, kindergartens, parks, a metro station and a shopping mall, and to energy infrastructure. He highlighted the attack as the largest assault since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. He further noted that according to OHCHR, in 2023 alone, the war in Ukraine claimed 1,888 civilian lives and injured 6,334, totaling 8,222 civilian casualties since Russia's invasion in 2022, adding that the actual figures were likely considerably higher.

In 2023, the deliberations in the Council under this item, by cross-cutting themes, also focused on the political, security and humanitarian developments in the context of the war in Ukraine. Significant emphasis was also placed on the accountability for reported war crimes, human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law. Council members also focused on the broader impact of the conflict in Ukraine on the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the global food supply.

Concerning the political situation, Council members called for de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the conflict by returning to diplomacy and political dialogue. During the period under review, some council members drew attention to the situation in Ukraine by explicitly referring to the Charter, notably, Articles 2,<sup>658</sup> 27,<sup>659</sup> 33<sup>660</sup> and 51.<sup>661</sup> At a meeting held on 24 February to mark the one year anniversary of the start of the war, some delegations called the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>657</sup> See <u>S/PV.9523</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>658</sup> See <u>S/PV.9269</u> and <u>S/PV.9380</u>. For more information on Article 2, see part III, sect. I.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>659</sup> See <u>S/PV.9269</u> and <u>S/PV. 9243</u>. For more information on Article 27, see part II, sect. IX.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>660</sup> See <u>S/PV.9380</u>, <u>S/PV.9404</u>, <u>S/PV.9414</u>, <u>S/PV.9464</u> and <u>S/PV.9494</u>. For more information on Article 33, see part VI, sect. A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>661</sup> See <u>S/PV.9357</u>, <u>S/PV.9380</u>, and <u>S/PV.9431</u>. For more information on Article 51, see part VII, sect. X.

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Russian invasion [on Ukraine] a violation of the United Nations Charter and international law,<sup>662</sup> and urged the parties to the conflict to observe international humanitarian law.<sup>663</sup> Some drew attention to the situation as a threat to international peace and security<sup>664</sup> and emphasized the role and responsibility of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security.<sup>665</sup>Against that backdrop, some Council members highlighted General Assembly resolution ES-11/6, adopted on 23 February by 141 votes in favor, as collective support by the international community for peace.<sup>666</sup> In that connection, the United States underlined that the resolution reaffirmed the core principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, denounced Russia's aggression and expressed support for a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the United Nations Charter.<sup>667</sup> The representative of Ecuador highlighted that through the "uniting for peace" mechanism, through its resolution 2623 (2022), since the invasion, the Security Council convened the eleventh emergency special session of the General Assembly, which adopted six resolutions focusing, inter alia, on territorial integrity (resolution ES-11/4), humanitarian issues (resolution ES-11/2), accountability (resolution ES-11/5) and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace (resolution ES-11/6). He added that the abuse and partial application of Article 27, paragraph 3 of the Charter, whereby a party to a dispute must abstain from voting, must end.<sup>668</sup> The representative of Ghana asserted that the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine constitutes a violation of the prohibition of the use of force under Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter.<sup>669</sup> The delegations of Czechia and Estonia expressed commitment to Ukraine's right to self-defence in line with Article 51 of the Charter.<sup>670</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>662</sup> See <u>S/PV.9269</u> (Malta, Japan, France, Ghana, Slovakia , Latvia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Italy, North Macedonia, Spain).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>663</sup> (Switzerland, Ghana, Brazil, China).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>664</sup> (Ukraine, Malta, Albania, Slovakia, Latvia). For information on threats to international peace and security considered by the Council in 2023, see part VII, sect. I.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>665</sup> (United States, Japan, Ghana, Slovakia, Romania, Germany, Spain). For more information on the functions and powers of the Council, see part V.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>666</sup> (United States, Switzerland, Japan, France, Ghana, Brazil). For more information on the emergency special session and the relations between the Council and the General Assembly, see part IV, sect. I. <sup>667</sup> (United States).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>668</sup> (Ecuador). See also S/PV. 9243 (Ecuador). For more information on Article 27, see part II, sect. IX.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>669</sup> (Ghana). See also S/PV.9380 (Ghana). For more information on Article 2, see part III, sect. I.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>670</sup> (Czechia, Estonia).

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During a meeting on 8 September, the representatives of France and Brazil expressed concern over reports of the Russian Federation holding elections in areas of Ukraine under Russia's military control.<sup>671</sup> The representative of Malta said that the elections further confirmed that Russia had no intention of engaging in meaningful discussions toward solutions to the war.<sup>672</sup> The representatives of Ghana and United Arab Emirates noted that the so-called elections introduced complications to the settlement of the conflict.<sup>673</sup> The representative of Albania underlined that all persons involved in the organization of the so-called elections were committing illegal actions and would be held accountable.<sup>674</sup> The representative of the United States urged the United Nations Member States to refrain from lending credibility to Russia's so-called elections on Ukraine's sovereign territory.<sup>675</sup> The representative of Brazil insisted on the call for the de-escalation of hostilities, as a first step, and for the establishment of negotiations, either directly or through the other peaceful means described in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations. <sup>676</sup>The representative of Ukraine called on the international community to condemn the use of the Russian election system on the territory of another state and to not recognize the so-called results of those elections.<sup>677</sup>

Regarding the security and humanitarian situation during the period under review, Council members deliberated on the protection of civilians and critical infrastructure, human rights and humanitarian response on the ground, and placed emphasis on fact-finding and accountability. At a meeting held on 6 June, members raised concerns about the destruction of the Kakhovka dam and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.<sup>678</sup> They highlighted the potential ecological, economic and humanitarian consequences, <sup>679</sup> as well as the nuclear risks<sup>680</sup> associated with the destruction and urged both parties to comply with their obligations under

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>671</sup> See <u>S/PV. 9414</u> (France and Brazil).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>672</sup> Ibid., (Malta).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>673</sup> Ibid., (United Arab Emirates and Ghana).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>674</sup> Ibid., (Albania).

<sup>675</sup> Ibid., (United States).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>676</sup> Ibid., (Brazil). See also <u>S/PV.9380</u> (Brazil); <u>S/PV.9404</u> (Brazil); <u>S/PV.9464</u> (Brazil). For more information on Article 33, see part VI, sect. A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>677</sup> Ibid., (Ukraine).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>678</sup> See <u>S/PV.9340</u> (Ghana, Gabon, Brazil, Malta, Mozambique and United Arab Emirates).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>679</sup> Ibid., (Ecuador, Switzerland and China).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>680</sup> Ibid., (United States, Ghana, Gabon, Brazil, Malta and United Arab Emirates).

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international humanitarian law, which afforded special protection of dams at all times.<sup>681</sup> In this regard, members called for accountability for the attacks on civilian infrastructure.<sup>682</sup> The representative of Switzerland reminded that the failure to respect international law in general, and international humanitarian law and human rights in particular, undermined the foundation of international security.<sup>683</sup>

During a meeting on 9 October,<sup>684</sup> several delegations emphasized the responsibility of the Russian Federation in creating the humanitarian crisis and questioned Russia's candidacy in the upcoming elections to the Human Rights Council.<sup>685</sup> The representatives of Malta and France expressed support for the ongoing efforts of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ), underlining the importance of accountability for war crimes.<sup>686</sup> The representative of France reaffirmed his continued support for Ukraine's courts and the International Criminal Court and for Ukraine's right to self-defense, as enshrined in Article 51 of the Chater.<sup>687</sup> The representatives of Switzerland and Ghana noted the deployment of a field team by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate the attack in the village of Hroza in the Kharkiv region.<sup>688</sup> In this context, the representative of Ghana urged independent, transparent and thorough investigations into the attack. The representative of Switzerland said that the deployment of the field team was an important step in ensuring justice and accountability and welcomed the announcement of in-depth investigations by the Independent International Investigation Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine into attacks using explosive weapons, attacks on civilians, torture, sexual and gender-based violence and strikes against energy infrastructure.

Regarding several discussions concerning the alleged war crimes and violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law committed in Ukraine, the representatives of Malta and Switzerland welcomed the in-depth investigations by the

<sup>682</sup> Ibid., (Albania, Ecuador, Ghana, Brazil, Switzerland, Malta and Mozambique).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>681</sup> Ibid., (Ecuador, Ghana, Gabon, Switzerland, China and United Arab Emirates).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>683</sup> Ibid., (Switzerland).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>684</sup> See <u>S/PV.9431</u> (Malta, France, Switzerland, Ghana and Japan).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>685</sup> Ibid., (Albania, United States, Ukraine and Latvia).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>686</sup> Ibid., (Malta and France).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>687</sup> Ibid., (France). See also <u>S/PV.9357</u>. For more information on Article 51, see part VII, sect. X.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>688</sup> Ibid., (Switzerland and Ghana).

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Independent International Investigation Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine<sup>689</sup> while the representatives of Brazil and Ghana expressed regret regarding the disbanding of the Fact-Finding Mission set up by the United Nations to investigate the incident of 29 July 2022 in Olenivka.<sup>690</sup> On 23 June, the representatives of Albania, United States, France, and Ukraine urged the United Nations to investigate the transfers of unmanned aerial vehicles from Iran to Russia, acquired in violation of resolution <u>2231(2015)</u>.<sup>691</sup>

In several meetings throughout the year, Council members noted the severe, conflictrelated effects on women and children which compromised their safety, physical and mental health, and access to health care and education. Members also expressed concern over confirmed cases of sexual abuse and violence committed against women and girls, and stressed the risks of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse faced by vulnerable groups, including refugees and displaced persons. Council members commended the efforts of the United Nations, its agencies and all humanitarian partners in Ukraine and in the refugee-hosting countries for their support to the affected population and called for the protection and unimpeded access for humanitarian personnel and operations. Many delegations also welcomed the establishment of the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine<sup>692</sup> and the Register of Damages for Ukraine Caused to Ukraine by Russian Aggression<sup>693</sup> in relation to achieving accountability and documenting claims of damage caused by the war in Ukraine.

During the period under review, Members also expressed support for the exchange of prisoners.<sup>694</sup> At various meetings, the representative of China urged the parties to the conflict to respect the basic rights of prisoners of war.<sup>695</sup> During a meeting on 17 March, the representative

<sup>694</sup> See <u>S/PV.9243</u> (Malta); <u>S/PV.9254</u> (United Arab Emirates); <u>S/PV.9269</u> (United Arab Emirates and Mozambique); <u>S/PV.9286</u> (Mozambique); <u>S/PV.9321</u> (Gabon and United Arab Emirates); <u>S/PV.9357</u> (Brazil and United Arab Emirates); and <u>S/PV.9380 (Ecuador)</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>689</sup> See S/PV.9269 (Malta), <u>S/PV.9286</u> (Malta) and <u>S/PV.9431</u>(Switzerland).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>690</sup> See <u>S/PV.9243</u> (Brazil and Ghana).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>691</sup> See <u>S/PV.9357</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>692</sup> See S/PV.9269 Netherlands (Kingdom of the); <u>S/PV.9321</u> (European Union); <u>S/PV.9357</u> (Albania, European Union); <u>S/PV.9380</u> (Malta and Luxembourg); and <u>S/PV.9386</u> (Malta).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>693</sup> See <u>S/PV.9269</u> Netherlands (Kingdom of the); <u>S/PV.9386</u> (Malta and European Union); <u>S/PV.9321 (</u>European Union and Denmark); <u>S/PV.9357</u> (Malta and European Union), <u>S/PV.9380</u> (Malta, Poland, Luxemburg and European Union); and <u>S/PV.9404 (</u>European Union).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>695</sup> See <u>S/PV.9286</u> (China); <u>S/PV.9269</u> (China): and <u>S/PV.9357</u> (China).

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of Ghana stated that prisoners of war must be treated with respect, in accordance with the measures prescribed under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.<sup>696</sup> In this connection, the representative of Malta recalled that under the Third Geneva Convention, all prisoners of war were entitled to receive regular visits from International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegations and called for unimpeded and repeated access to be granted to the ICRC for all Ukrainian prisoners of war.<sup>697</sup> During a meeting on 23 June, while the representative of Ecuador reiterated his county's support for the effort of the United Nations for the release of prisoners, the representative of Gabon recognized the important role of the ICRC with regard to prisoners of war.<sup>698</sup> At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil expressed support for the proposals of a de-escalation of hostilities, an exchange of prisoners of war and peace negotiations based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.<sup>699</sup>

Regarding the Black Sea Grain Initiative, in 2023, most Council members recognized the Initiative's importance to global food supplies and food markets and expressed concern that despite the agreements signed one year ago, recent actions and decisions, as well as deterioration in the situation, was impacting global food security. During a meeting on 21 July, Ecuador, France, Japan, Malta and Switzerland warned about the global repercussions of the Russian Federation's decision to terminate the Black Sea Grain Initiative<sup>700</sup> and condemned the recent strikes against grain infrastructure in the Ukrainian Black Sea ports of Odesa, Chernomorsk and Mykolayiv.<sup>701</sup> The representatives of United States, Malta and Japan criticized the Russian Federation for what they described as the weaponization of food, holding it responsible for rising food prices on global markets. Most members commended the efforts of the Secretary-General and Türkiye, with the parties to the conflict, to facilitate the extension and implementation of the Initiative. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation drew attention to the fact that the Initiative was no longer reflecting the initial goal becoming overtly commercial in nature, benefiting mainly the developed countries. He noted that the reintegration of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>696</sup> See <u>S/PV.9286</u> (Ghana).

<sup>697</sup> Ibid., (Malta).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>698</sup> See <u>S/PV.9357</u>, (Ecuador and Gabon).

<sup>699</sup> Ibid., (Brazil).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>700</sup> See <u>S/PV.9382</u> (Ecuador, France, Switzerland, Malta and Japan).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>701</sup> Ibid. (France, Switzerland, Malta and Japan).

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Russian Agricultural Bank into the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) system has been officially rejected by the EU and the United States. He expressed Russia's readiness to reconsider participation in the Initiative under certain conditions, including lifting sanctions on Russian food supply and fertilizers and unfreezing Russian assets related to the agricultural sector.

In 2023, Council members also deliberated on nuclear safety commending the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in and around Ukrainian nuclear sites, particularly Zaporizhzhya, in preventing the risks of nuclear accidents. At a meeting on 23 June, the representative of Switzerland called on Russia and Ukraine to strictly respect international humanitarian law in protecting civilian objects and structures and facilities containing dangerous forces, and to commit to the five basic principles, established by the IAEA. At the same meeting, several members elaborated with concern about the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons from Russia to Belarus.<sup>702</sup> While the representative of China hoped that the international community would refrain from escalating tensions, in particular, strictly safeguard the bottom line of nuclear safety and stay far away from the red line of nuclear war, the representative of United Arab Emirates also emphasized the non-use of nuclear weapons and warned that nuclear rhetoric was dangerous and undermined peace efforts.

Developments in Ukraine were also considered under the item "Threats to international peace and security".<sup>703</sup>

Meeting record and date	Sub-item	Other documents	Rule 37 invitations	Rule 39 and other invitations	Speakers	Decision and vote (for- against- abstaining)
S/PV.9243 13 January 2023			Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>a</sup>	

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>702</sup> See <u>S/PV.9357</u> (Albania, Japan, Brazil, Ecuador and France).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>703</sup> See part I, sect 36.

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S/PV.9254 6 February 2023	Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union	All Council members, all invitees <sup>b</sup>	
S/PV.9269 24 February 2023	15 Member States <sup>c</sup>	High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy	Secretary- General, all Council members, <sup>d</sup> all invitees <sup>e</sup>	
S/PV.9286 17 March 2023	Denmark, Lithuania, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>f</sup>	Procedural vote (Rule 39) 4-8-3 <sup>g</sup>
S/PV.9321 15 May 2023	Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>h</sup>	
S/PV.9340 6 June 2023 <sup>i</sup>	Latvia, Poland, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator	All Council members, all invitees <sup>i</sup>	
S/PV.9357 23 June 2023	Czechia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>i</sup>	
S/PV.9380 17 July 2023	8 Member States <sup>k</sup>	Under-Secretary- General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, <sup>1</sup> all invitees <sup>m</sup>	

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S/PV.9382 21 July 2023	Romania, Türkiye, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Under- Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, independent macroeconomist	All Council members, <sup>n</sup> all invitees
S/PV.9386 26 July 2023	Ukraine	Assistant Secretary- General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations	14 Council members, <sup>o</sup> all invitees
S/PV.9404 24 August 2023	Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, Legal expert at the Regional Center for Human Rights, Chief Executive Officer of Save Ukraine	All Council members, all invitees <sup>p</sup>
S/PV.9414 8 September 2023	Czechia, Estonia, Italy, Poland, Ukraine	Assistant Secretary- General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>q</sup>

S/PV.9431 9 October 2023	Czechia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Ukraine	Under-Secretary- General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup><i>r</i></sup>
S/PV.9464 31 October 2023	Ukraine	Director for Coordination, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees
S/PV.9483 21 November 2023	Ukraine	Assistant Secretary- General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Representative and Country Director in Ukraine at the World Food Programme, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>s</sup>
S/PV.9494 6 December 2023	Denmark, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine	Assistant Secretary- General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Director for Coordination, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees <sup>t</sup>

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S/PV.9523 29 December 2023	Poland, Ukraine	Assistant Secretary- General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	All Council members, all invitees
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<sup>*a*</sup> The representative of Lithuania also spoke on behalf of Estonia and Latvia. Poland was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. Ukraine was represented by its First Deputy Foreign Minister.

<sup>b</sup> The representative of Estonia made a statement on behalf of Latvia, Lithuania; and the representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden.

<sup>c</sup> Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine.

<sup>d</sup> Albania was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Ecuador was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility; France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Ghana was represented by its Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration; Japan was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Malta (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Malta (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Malta (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Malta (President of the Council) was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; United Arab Emirates was represented by its Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates and Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Political Affairs; United Kingdom was represented by its Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs; United States was represented by its Secretary of State.;

- <sup>e</sup> Italy was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Netherlands (Kingdom of the) was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs; Croatia was represented by its Minister for Foreign and European Affairs; Czechia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Estonia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Latvia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Hungary was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Latvia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Hungary was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade; North Macedonia was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Poland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Slovakia was represented by its Secretary of State; Romania was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Slovakia was represented by its Minister for Foreign and European Affairs; Spain was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation; Ukraine was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs. The representative of Latvia spoke on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden; and the representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands spoke on behalf of Group of Friends of Accountability following the aggression against Ukraine.
- <sup>f</sup> Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator participated in the meeting by videoconference. The representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden. The representative of Lithuania made a statement on behalf of Estonia, Latvia.
- <sup>g</sup> For: Brazil, China, Ghana, Russian Federation; against: Albania, Ecuador, France, Japan, Malta, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America; abstaining: Gabon, Mozambique, United Arab Emirates. The proposal to invite Ms. Daria Morozova under rule 39 was rejected due to the procedural vote. See also part II, sec. VII.
- <sup>h</sup> Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator participated in the meeting by videoconference. The representative of Lithuania made a statement on behalf of Estonia, Latvia. The representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden.
- <sup>i</sup> The 9340<sup>th</sup> meeting was held under two items, namely "Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine" and "Threats to international peace and security." See also part II, sec.II.
- <sup>j</sup> The representative of Latvia made a statement on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania.
- <sup>k</sup> The representative of Lithuania made a statement on behalf of Estonia. The representative of Czechia spoke on behalf of Czechia and Slovakia.
- <sup>1</sup> Austria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland and Ukraine.
- <sup>m</sup> France was represented by its Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Japan was represented by its State Minister for Foreign Affairs; United Kingdom (President of the Council) was represented by its Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs; United States was represented by its Permanent Representative and Member of President Biden's Cabinet.
- <sup>n</sup> Lithuania was represented by its Chancellor of the Government; Austria was represented by its Federal Minister

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for the European Union and Constitution at the Federal Chancellery; Germany was represented by its Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Hungary was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade; Luxembourg was represented by its Minister of Foreign and European Affairs; Poland was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ukraine was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ukraine was represented by its Minister for Foreign Affairs; Jennark was represented by its Deputy Minister for Development Cooperation. The representative of Luxemburg made a statement on behalf of Belgium, Netherlands (Kingdom the of the), and Luxemburg. The representative of Lithuania spoke on behalf of Estonia, Latvia. The representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

- <sup>o</sup> Ecuador was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility.
- <sup>*p*</sup> The representative of the Russian Federation did not make a statement.
- <sup>*q*</sup> The Chief Executive Officer of Save Ukraine briefed the Council or made a statement in the Ukrainian language. Interpretation was not provided.
- <sup>r</sup> The representative of Estonia made a statement on behalf of Latvia, Lithuania. The representative of Czechia spoke on behalf of Slovakia.
- <sup>s</sup> Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs participated in the meeting by videoconference The representative of Latvia made a statement on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania.
- <sup>t</sup> The Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations and the Representative and Country Director in Ukraine at the World Food Programme participated in the meeting by videoconference.
- <sup>*u*</sup> The representative of Denmark spoke on behalf of, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The representative of Latvia made a statement on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania.