



Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations
19 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017
www.ghanamissionun.org



As Delivered

REMARKS

BY

HAROLD ADLAI AGYEMAN
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

THE SITUATION ON UKRAINE

23rd February 2022
Security Council Chamber
New York

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, let me thank the Secretary-General and USG Rosemary DiCarlo for their significant briefings.
2. Mr. Secretary-General, Ghana thanks you for your clear statements on the situation in Ukraine, in defence of the Charter, the rules-based international order and our collective security mechanism.
3. The developments that are taking place in Ukraine are indeed troubling. The situation has implications not only for Ukraine and its immediate neighbours but also for all our countries. Security is indivisible and the insecurity of one is the insecurity of all.
4. As we indicated in our statement to the Council on Monday night, Ghana deeply regrets the decision of the Russian Federation to unilaterally recognise the non-government-controlled regions of Ukraine and to send troops into those regions. We are also deeply concerned by the implications of those decisions, which suggests that the Russian Federation has turned its back on the Minsk Agreements and the path of dialogue required to address any concerns it may have over the implementation of the Agreements and related security concerns.

5. We have however read in reports this morning, the statement attributed to the President of the Russian Federation that his country was always open to diplomacy. We urge that the avowed commitment to diplomacy that the Russian Federation has alluded to, should be backed by present actions that de-escalate the situation on the ground and permit an atmosphere for dialogue.
6. We note with concern, the risks that an escalation of the situation in Ukraine hold for global peace and security and stress that those that choose the path of conflict rather than peace bear the consequences of their actions. We are concerned by reports of the commencement of hybrid warfare against Ukraine, especially attempts of cyberattacks against some of its critical infrastructure.
7. To deescalate the situation, we urge the Russian Federation to reconsider any intentions to move troops into the eastern regions of Ukraine in response to the purported request by the leaders of the separatist regions for an intervention. Peacekeeping by its nature requires the consent of the parties and the impartiality of the peacekeeping force. The presence of the Russian troops in eastern Ukraine, at this time, would not fulfil those requirements. If there is a real need, the Council should be seized of the matter.

8. We urge for calm and call upon all parties to maintain the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine. We are particularly concerned by the high intensity of violations of the ceasefire in recent days and its consequences on the civilian populations in the Donbas region.
9. We remind all parties of the need to respect international law and international humanitarian law and urge the parties to guarantee unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance in both government and non-government-controlled areas. We condemn any military activity that would deliberately target civilians and civilian infrastructure and remind all parties of the personal responsibility that exist in international law.

Mr. President,

10. It may be begging the question, but nonetheless worth repeating. Ghana unreservedly stands by the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, a bona fide Member State of the United Nations, whose membership of this Organization provides for her guarantees over her internationally recognized borders, the same borders with which she joined this Organisation.
11. We aver that the current developments in the eastern regions of Ukraine would not lead to a strategic gain for any party, and

encourage efforts to address both immediate and long-term interests through diplomacy and dialogue.

12. As called for by the preamble of the Charter, we remind all parties to “practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours”.

13. Finally, we take this opportunity to urge all Member States to exercise restraint on the respective unsettled but accepted situations across the globe and to uphold the collective security mechanism established through the Charter of the United Nations. Any differences that may exist in international relations must be adjusted by peaceful and legal means.

14. I thank you for your attention.