

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
20 April 2021

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-fifth session**
Agenda item 65**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine****Security Council
Seventy-sixth year****Letter dated 16 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia's restrictions on free navigation in the Black Sea (see annex).

These actions of the Russian Federation constitute yet another attempt to usurp Ukraine's sovereign rights of a coastal State in violation of the norms and principles of international law, as Ukraine is in fact endowed with the right to regulate navigation in these water areas of the Black Sea.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Serhiy Kyslytsya
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia restricting free navigation in the Black Sea

The Russian Federation has announced that starting the next week and until October 2021, a part of the Black Sea in the direction of the Kerch Strait would be closed for warships and state vessels of other states under the pretext of military training.

These actions of the Russian Federation constitute another attempt to usurp Ukraine's sovereign rights of a coastal state in violation of the norms and principles of international law, as Ukraine is in fact endowed with the right to regulate the navigation in these water areas of the Black Sea.

Also, these actions are a gross violation of the freedom of navigation, guaranteed by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. According to the Convention, Russia must not hinder or interfere with the transit passage through the international strait to the ports of the Sea of Azov.

Against the backdrop of the ongoing military build-up along the state border of Ukraine, Russia expanded its escalation on the sea. It transfers warships from the Caspian Sea, reinforces its military capabilities in the Azov-Black Sea region, and without any legal grounds decided to close this water area for foreign warships, including Ukrainian ones.

Such behavior clearly indicates Russia's unwillingness to cease its aggression against Ukraine with the use of military and hybrid methods.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest against these actions of the Russian Federation and demands that Russia's unlawful decision to close certain water areas of the Black Sea is revoked immediately.

We call on international partners to increase political and diplomatic pressure on the aggressor state so that it revokes the decision to close the water areas and stops the escalation in the Azov-Black Sea region.
