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Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

Letter dated 19 February 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the address of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), governments and parliaments of foreign States on non-recognition of independence of the illegal entities in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of 15 February 2022 (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 35 (a) and 67, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sergiy Kyslytsya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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Address of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, governments and parliaments of foreign States on non-recognition of independence of the illegal entities in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions

In 2014, Russian troops invaded Ukraine in violation of basic principles of international law – territorial integrity of states, inviolability of borders, non-use of force or threat of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of states.

The world democratic community, condemning such actions of the Russian Federation, considering such actions as aggression, has repeatedly called on the aggressor-state to adhere to the fundamental principles of international law.

Contrary to this, the State Duma of the Russian Federation intends to decide and appeal to President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to recognize the independence of illegal entities in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

In this regard, given the external threat, we support the efforts of the President of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine aimed at de-escalation of the security situation around Ukraine, peaceful settlement of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, elimination of the existing threat, prevention of the destruction of the European security system for the sake of peace on Earth and preserving the statehood of Ukraine, and we emphasize that:

territorial integrity and inviolability of borders are fundamental principles of international law, its compliance ensures the international law-based order;

the use of armed force against Ukraine by the Russian Federation is a crime of armed aggression and grossly violates the Charter of the United Nations, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of 1 August 1975, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 5 December 1994;

the actions of the Russian Federation towards Ukraine have been recognized by the international community as aggression;

the recent de facto blockade of Black Sea ports by Russia under the pretext of military drills not only escalates the conflict but may cause disruptions in food supplies to other countries, as Ukraine is one of the leading food suppliers to international markets;

The so-called “authorities” of the illegal entities in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions are indeed the occupation administrations of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied parts of Ukraine, administered by the Russian Federation. Therefore, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine considers it impossible to negotiate directly with the leaders of the mentioned entities in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Therefore, we believe that the statements of the Russian Federation concerning the State Duma's plans to recognize the independence of illegal entities in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine are another attempt to destroy international law-based order based on the UN Charter.

Hence, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine strongly condemns any attempts by the Russian Federation to recognize (legalize) the independence of the illegal entities being the occupation administrations of the Russian Federation established by it in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and for that reason appeals to the United Nations, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, governments and parliaments of foreign countries and calls on:

- to confirm the territorial integrity of Ukraine and inviolability within its internationally recognized borders;

- not to recognize any acts of the Russian Federation regarding the recognition of the independence of illegal entities in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions;

- to strongly condemn any actions taken by the Russian Federation to worsen the security situation in the world and Ukraine in particular;

- to consider the legal basis of the status of the Russian Federation as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

- to hold an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the escalation of the conflict on the state border of Ukraine;

- to immediately impose additional sanctions on the Russian Federation to prevent further escalation of the conflict.

Kyiv, 15 February 2022
