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Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict

**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security
and development**

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

**Letter dated 20 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Declaration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Genocide Committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

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), 36 and 67, and of the Security Council.

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



Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Genocide Committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine

On behalf of the Ukrainian nation, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as the sole legislative body of Ukraine:

guided by the provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948), norms of customary international law and taking into account provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

emphasizing the obligation of all states under international law to cooperate in order to bring to end breaches of the generally accepted norms of the international law, which include the prohibition of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes;

considering the numerous public statements of the President of the Russian Federation as a head of state, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces and other Russian state officials as well as the decisions of the authorities of all levels taken in support and pursuance of these statements, which in their totality testify to the existence of an official policy of the Russian state of non-recognition of the Ukrainian nation's right to self-identification, self-determination and, consequently, of its right to exist;

taking note of the centuries-long Russian policy of 'de-Ukrainization', absorption of the Ukrainian nation by means of distortion and appropriation of its history, its achievements in the fields of science, culture and art;

condemning the official policy of the Russian Federation of distorting the notion of the Ukrainian nation's distinct identity and its desire for independence, which is implemented through dissemination of false ideologemes based on the deliberately untruthful and manipulative identification of Ukrainian patriotism with 'Nazism' or other misanthropic ideologies;

taking into account that the alleged purpose of the new stage of the military aggression of the Russian Federation is the 'denazification' of Ukraine which essentially serves as a disguise to cover up for the real objectives of the Russian aggression to destroy the Ukrainian nation, its distinct identity and to deprive the Ukrainian nation of its right to independent development;

considering the actions taken to prohibit the use of the Ukrainian language and of Ukrainian-language books, the destruction of such books, the instant introduction of education in the Russian language and with Russian ideological bias in the territories temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation;

noting the persistent and systemic nature of the policy of the Russian Federation aimed at the mass extermination of the population of Ukraine, violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and the elimination of the statehood of the Ukrainian nation;

considering that the actions of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation against the civilian population on the territory of Ukraine are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Ukrainian nation as a distinct national group;

bearing in mind that acts punishable under international law, in particular under the provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of

Genocide (1948), include the commission of genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempt to commit genocide, and complicity in genocide;

considering that the actions of the political leadership and the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, its officials and the mass media amount to the acts outlined above;

whereas the actions of the Russian Federation amounting to acts of genocide are manifested, *inter alia*, as follows:

the perpetration of mass atrocities by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories (in particular in the cities of Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol, urban-type settlements Borodyanka, Hostomel and many other inhabited localities on the territory of Ukraine), which consisted of numerous instances of murder, enforced disappearance, imprisonment, torture, rape, as well as in desecration of corpses;

systematic instances of wilfully killing civilians and deliberate imposition by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation of life conditions causing grave suffering to the Ukrainian nation and designed to bring about its destruction in whole or in part, which ultimately result in the physical destruction of the Ukrainian population in many settlements on the territory of Ukraine, in particular by means of besieging settlements, blocking of humanitarian aid and obstructing the evacuation of civilians; the capture and deliberate destruction of infrastructure that provides for people's basic needs;

the forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to the territory of the Russian Federation and their relocation to an alien environment aimed at the annihilation of their self-identification as Ukrainians, as well as the expulsion from their homes and deportation to the territory of the Russian Federation of thousands of persons belonging to the civilian population of Ukraine;

widespread instances of causing physical and mental harm to the population of Ukraine, representatives of Ukrainian public authorities and local self-government, representatives of non-governmental organizations and other local activists, journalists, clergy and other prominent figures of the Ukrainian society;

systemic actions of the Russian Federation aimed at inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about gradual destruction of the Ukrainian nation by means of undermining its economic capacity and security, which is manifested in the destruction of economic infrastructure (damaging granaries, obstructing sowing campaigns, blockading trade routes, destroying electricity and gas transportation infrastructure, etc);

recognising that the above-mentioned actions of the Russian Federation against the population of Ukraine are carried out with the intent to destroy the Ukrainian nation, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with this Declaration:

1. Recognizes as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation the actions committed by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and its political and military leadership during the most recent phase of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine which began on 24 February 2022.

2. Appeals to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and governments and parliaments of foreign states to recognize the act of genocide committed by the Russian Federation against the Ukrainian nation as well as crimes against humanity and war crimes committed on the territory of Ukraine.