



General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 June 2022
English
Original: Russian

Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 74 (a)

Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

Letter dated 7 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement delivered by the Russian delegation at the 19th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 74 (a).

(Signed) V. Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement delivered by the representative of the Russian Federation at the 19th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child under the agenda item 6, “Other matters”

6 June 2022

Chair,

Under this agenda item, I would like to comment briefly on certain aspects of the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Attention was drawn to the Committee’s 4 March 2022 statement on the situation in Ukraine, containing groundless accusations of Russia’s “aggression” and “grave violations of children’s rights,” and the 28 February 2022 joint statement by human rights experts, including from CRC, on the same topic, calling exclusively on the Russian Federation to immediately cease hostilities and to comply with the principles of international human rights and humanitarian law. We consider the above approach by CRC to assessing events in Ukraine to be unprofessional and biased.

We would like to remind you that not only the Russian Federation is a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but Ukraine as well. However, the CRC statement does not say a word about the personal responsibility of the Ukrainian authorities or numerous States of the collective West which, for eight years, purposefully fomented the conflict in Ukraine.

All those years, the Committee remained silent about the Kiev regime’s crimes against its own citizens. Over the past eight years, more than 100 children were killed in Donbass as a result of shelling by the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

A kind of “calling card” from Kiev is the use of civilian facilities, including educational institutions and hospitals, as strongholds, as a result of which they have been significantly damaged.

We would like to draw the Committee’s attention to another critical aspect. Ukrainian nationalists have been recruiting children into the Armed Forces of Ukraine for many years. Even before the beginning of the special military operation by Russia in Ukraine, reports repeatedly appeared, including on Western television, about child soldiers under 18 years of age being trained in specialized camps.

Such actions are a clear violation by Ukraine of its obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. When Ukraine ratified this international treaty in 2005, it declared that the minimum age for voluntary (contractual) entry into the national armed forces was 19 years.

Not to mention the fact that the prohibition on recruitment of children under the age of 15 into armed forces or groups and their participation in hostilities is contained in Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which Ukraine is a party.

Chair,

The current special military operation in Ukraine has been forced upon us. It was the result of eight years of aggression by the Kiev regime against Donbass and

its unwillingness to enforce human rights and stop discrimination against Russian-speaking citizens of the country.

We repeatedly proposed to Ukraine and its Western sponsors to resolve the issue through negotiations, not to place heavy weapons in residential areas, not to use civilians as shield, to organize appropriate humanitarian access for the work of international agencies and humanitarian corridors to safely remove the population from areas of hostilities. However, all of our initiatives were blocked.

We recommend that the Committee experts, if they are still capable of a truly independent and impartial analysis, hold the real culprits of the situation in Ukraine accountable.

Thank you.
