



# General Assembly

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**Seventy-sixth session**

Agenda item 167

**Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country****Letter dated 5 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative  
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to forward to you a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov (see annex), addressed to you and relating to the systematic violations by the United States authorities of their obligations arising from the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations of 1947.

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 167.

*(Signed)* Vassily Nebenzia



**Annex to the letter dated 5 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Russian]

Moscow, 3 August 2022

You are well aware of the continuing unacceptable situation created by the systematic and targeted violations by the United States authorities of their international legal obligations under the United Nations Headquarters Agreement of 1947. I would reiterate that I had informed you of the situation in my letter of 16 January 2022, and drew attention to the need for you to take immediate action in this regard. No response to that letter has been received to date.

These violations by the United States have been repeatedly noted by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country and in General Assembly resolutions on that Committee's reports (listed in my letter of 16 January 2022).

Recently, the authorities of the host country, in their desire to create even more obstacles to the work of the Russian delegation to the Organization, against a background of complicity of the Secretariat, have resorted to measures going as far as official denial of visas (in addition to numerous cases of delayed issuance and lack of response to visa requests).

Notification along those lines was received by the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for international cooperation in the field of information security, A. V. Krutskikh, who had been planning to participate, as head of the Russian delegation, in the meetings of the United Nations open-ended working group on international information security,

We would like to recall that as far back as 1953 the then Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld had reached an understanding with the United States that if a representative of any State raised "security" concerns in Washington, consultations would be held and the matter would ultimately be resolved in the framework of the 1947 United Nations Headquarters Agreement, that is, through arbitration ("modus vivendi", Section 8 of Chapter IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization for 1953–1954, document A/2663).

There has been no public response from the Secretariat to yet another blatant abuse by the United States of its position as host country of the United Nations, nor have any formal steps yet been taken to initiate arbitration.

This universal Organization is now more than ever in need of your role as guarantor of the fulfilment in good faith by the United States of its obligations under the Agreement, of the recommendations of the Committee and of the decisions of the General Assembly. Against this background, the inaction of the Secretariat on the issue of arbitration has the appearance of a lack of respect for the legitimate interests of United Nations Member States.

In this connection, we have also pointed out that senior officials of the Office of Legal Affairs ignored the 11 July 2022 meeting of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. We trust that this will not happen again.

An enormous volume of problems has arisen in the relations between a number of countries and the United States in the context of the United Nations. It is not acceptable for the Secretariat to ignore them. In relation to this matter, you have all the authority you need from the General Assembly to launch arbitration proceedings

against the United States. The States adversely affected have made insistent calls for that to happen (see the letter dated 31 August 2021 addressed to you by the representatives of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – document [A/75/1014](#)).

I would once again point out that you are the Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations and that it is incumbent on you in this situation to use the only legal remedy available to members of the Organization against arbitrary and blatant discrimination by the host country.

I urge you not to delay any longer, and formally launch arbitration proceedings against the United States in connection with all the problems identified by the General Assembly (visa problems; measures to limit movement to a “25-mile zone”; blocking part of the premises of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation in Upper Brookville). I would be grateful for information on concrete steps taken by the Secretariat to that end.

*(Signed)* S. **Lavrov**

  

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