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

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Letter dated 2 October 2023 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the comment of 30 September 2023 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the intentions of Belarus to organize a trip of a foreign diplomatic corps to the deported Ukrainian children (see annex).

I would also appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 62 and 67, and the Security Council.

(Signed) Khrystyna **Hayovyshyn**
Chargée d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 2 October 2023 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding
the intentions of Belarus to organize a trip of a foreign diplomatic
corps to the deported Ukrainian children 30 September 2023**

On October 4, the Belarusian side intends to organize a visit by representatives of the foreign diplomatic corps accredited in Minsk, to the so-called “places of residence, education and rehabilitation” of Ukrainian children in Belarus, who were taken out of the temporarily occupied by Russia cities of Lysychansk and Severodonetsk.

This measure aims to legalize the unlawful displacement of Ukrainian children from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. According to international law, the forced deportation of children can be qualified as a war crime.

In order to avoid responsibility, officials in Belarus try to disguise themselves with international representatives. We call on foreign states whose diplomatic missions in Minsk have received relevant invitations to refrain from participating in the propaganda trip of the Belarusian regime.

Both at the level of the national investigation and as part of the investigation of the International Criminal Court, we will continue our work to bring to justice all persons who have committed crimes against Ukrainian children.
