

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
2 October 2023

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-eighth session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict****Security Council
Seventy-eighth year****Letter dated 29 September 2023 from the Permanent
Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the
Security Council**

I would like to bring to your attention the inadmissible approach taken by the Albanian presidency at the 9421st meeting of the Security Council, in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, on the theme “Upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations: maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine”.

First, the presidency took a unilateral, clearly politicized decision to have the President of Ukraine, invited under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure, speak before the members of the Council, although many of them were also represented at the level of Head of State. This is a clear show of disrespect for the established practice and the authority of the Council. It is even more regrettable that such actions constitute a dangerous trend in which the Western delegations in the Council use their presidency for the benefit of one delegation, which is artificially prioritized in disregard of Security Council traditions. This is not the first time that Ukraine, backed by its Western supporters, receives preferential procedural treatment in Security Council briefings.

Second, the Albanian presidency, represented by Prime Minister Edi Rama, was conducting business not as the President of the Security Council, who is restricted, as with any presidency, to solely to procedural matters, but made a number of political assessments in his national capacity, insisting that he is fully entitled to do so.

Specifically, Mr. Rama said: “As you repeated many times that the violation here is about President Zelenskyy speaking before Council members, there is a solution for that, if you agree: stop the war and President Zelenskyy will not take the floor. What makes his presence here important – and why it is important for all of us to hear him first and then discuss – is because of you, not us.” Mr. Rama continued to insist that he had a right to speak in his national capacity: “I just responded to you after you addressed me as the Albanian Prime Minister” (to which we said we never did, as confirmed by the official record of the meeting ([S/PV.9421](#))) “and after you continued to say incorrect things about what the procedure is here. If you do not want



me to answer as the Albanian Prime Minister, do not provoke me as such". He carried on, claiming that he was "provoked" by the Russian delegation after we drew his attention to the fact that the President should conduct the meeting in line with the procedure.

We regret to note that at the above-mentioned meeting the Albanian Presidency failed to comply with a high standard of impartial performance, openly promoting its national position, and we call on the members of the Security Council to oppose such an approach.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia
