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armed conflict**

**Security Council
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**Letter dated 6 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the anniversary of the signing of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the anniversary of the signing of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

5 December 2017

On December 5, 1994, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States and the Russian Federation signed the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum).

On the background of the collapse of the USSR and global threats for security and non-proliferation regime, related to the significant nuclear potential of the USSR, Ukraine has made a unique contribution to global nuclear disarmament and stability.

Russia's military aggression against Ukraine constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the provisions of the Budapest Memorandum. Since Ukraine gave up its nuclear weapons, in Article 2 Russia has undertaken the obligation to refrain from the threat of force or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine and assumed international legal obligations that none of its weapons would ever be used against Ukraine.

The above mentioned aggressive behavior of Russia as a nuclear-weapon state poses a threat to the nuclear non-proliferation regime as a whole, which is particularly acute on the background of nuclear blackmail and provocation by the DPRK.

The provision of security guarantees to Ukraine by nuclear states through signing of the relevant international legal instrument, that is the Budapest Memorandum, was a precondition for the Ukrainian parliament to give its consent to Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of July 1, 1968. Ukraine considered and continues to consider such guarantees as a prerequisite, which constituted an essential reason for Ukraine's accession to the Treaty.

Ukraine highly appreciates the actions of the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as France, which provide real support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, condemn the illegal actions of the Russian side, and take measures in response to the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. We are convinced that the strengthening of political support through practical assistance towards enhancing Ukraine's defense capabilities by provision of lethal weapons should become an effective response to the growing security threats from the Russian Federation. This will testify to the complete adherence of the signatories of the Budapest Memorandum to the commitments undertaken by them and will strengthen the architecture of the European security, of which the Memorandum is an integral part.

Ukraine continues to consider the Budapest Memorandum as an important international legal instrument for ensuring Ukraine's security by the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as France and the People's Republic of China, and demands that Russia should fully comply with its commitments.