



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/775
13 December 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UN DOCUMENT

DEC 18 1991

UNITED NATIONS

Forty-sixth session
Agenda items 22, 93 and 98 (a) and (b)

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE WORLD

RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS; HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS,
INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING
THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 6 December 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Declaration on the Rights of Nationalities in Ukraine, adopted by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on 1 November 1991 (see annex).

I request you to circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under items 22, 93, 98 (a) and (b).

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

ANNEX

Declaration on the rights of nationalities in Ukraine, adopted
by the Parliament of Ukraine on 1 November 1991

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,

Basing itself on the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine, the Act Proclaiming the Independence of Ukraine, and in the light of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and International Covenants on rights and freedoms of individuals ratified by Ukraine,

Endeavouring to consolidate in an independent, democratic Ukraine the sacred principles of freedom, humanitarianism, social justice and equality of all ethnic groups in Ukraine,

Keeping in mind that on the territory of Ukraine live citizens of more than 100 nationalities, who together with Ukrainians constitute the 52-million population of Ukraine,

Adopts this Declaration on the Rights of Nationalities in Ukraine:

Article 1

The Ukrainian State guarantees all peoples, national groups, citizens, who live on its territory, all political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Representatives of peoples and national groups shall be elected on the basis of equal rights to government organs of all levels, can assume any post in administrative organs, business enterprises, institutions and organizations.

Discrimination on the ground of nationality is forbidden and punishable under law.

Article 2

The Ukrainian State guarantees all nationalities the right to preserve their traditional settlements and ensures the existence of national-administrative units, and assumes the responsibility to create appropriate conditions for the development of all national languages and cultures.

Article 3

The Ukrainian State guarantees all peoples and national groups the right to use their native languages in all spheres of social life, including education, employment, receiving and disseminating information.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine interprets Article 3 of the Law on Languages on the Ukrainian SSR in such a manner that within the boundaries of administrative-territorial units, which are densely populated by certain nationalities, its language can function on a level equal to that of the State language.

The Ukrainian State guarantees its citizens the unimpeded use of the Russian language. In regions densely inhabited by several nationalities, the accepted language of that area can function on a level equal to that of the State language.

Article 4

All citizens of Ukraine, of each nationality, are guaranteed the right to profess their religions, use their national symbols, observe their national holidays, and participate in the traditional rituals of their peoples.

Article 5

Historical and cultural relics of all peoples and national groups on the territory of Ukraine are protected by law.

Article 6

The Ukrainian State guarantees all nationalities the right to establish their cultural centres, societies, regional organizations and associations. These organizations can conduct activities aimed at developing national cultures, hold in conformity with the existing laws mass actions, promote the establishing newspapers, magazines, publishing companies, museums, artistic ensembles, theatres and film studios.

Article 7

National cultural centres and societies and representatives of national minorities have the right to unhindered contacts with their historical native land.
