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Prevention of armed conflict:

Prevention of armed conflict

**Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful
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**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
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Letter dated 29 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government, I am writing in reference to the letter addressed to you, dated 7 March 2019, from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations ([A/73/802](#)).

To that letter, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation annexed a “position paper”, entitled “Position of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the Contiguous Zone of Ukraine Act”. The Permanent Representative requested that the letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the current session of the General Assembly under agenda items 34 (a) and (b) and 78 (a).

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations notes that, in its resolution [68/262](#), adopted on 27 March 2014, the General Assembly called upon “all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol ... and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status”. The General Assembly has reaffirmed its call for the non-recognition of any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (together, “Crimea”) on numerous subsequent occasions, including in its resolutions [71/205](#), [72/190](#), [73/194](#) and [73/263](#).

The position paper asserts, inter alia, that “Crimea has become a part of the Russian Federation” and that Russia is “currently the sole coastal State” in the Kerch Strait. Both of these assertions are predicated on a view that the status of Crimea has been altered from one of unquestioned Ukrainian sovereignty. Consistent with the call in the above-referenced General Assembly resolutions to refrain from any action or



dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing an altered status of Crimea, the United Nations and its Member States should disregard the position paper of the Russian Federation, and no action should be taken on it by the General Assembly.

The position paper also contains numerous other misstatements. For the avoidance of doubt, Ukraine rejects the assertions of the Russian Federation in its position paper that the Sea of Azov is part of the internal waters of Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine also rejects the suggestion that the Contiguous Zone of Ukraine Act permits the exercise of jurisdiction over ships in connection with violations occurring outside of the territory and waters of Ukraine, or that it is otherwise inconsistent with the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Ukraine will not dignify Russia's inadmissible position paper by responding further herein to these baseless assertions.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 (a) and (b), 67 and 78 (a), and of the Security Council.

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