

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
22 July 2019

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda item 67****The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine****Security Council
Seventy-fourth year****Letter dated 18 July 2019 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to submit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia's latest decision to simplify Russian citizenship acquisition for Ukrainian citizens residing in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (see annex).

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

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



Annex to the letter dated 18 July 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia's latest decision to simplify Russian citizenship acquisition for Ukrainian citizens residing in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest over the new attempt by the Russian authorities to expand the simplified procedure for obtaining Russian citizenship to Ukrainian citizens residing in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Russia's actions constitute an act of unambiguous interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine as an independent and sovereign State. This attempt also poses a serious threat to security across the entire European continent.

It speaks volumes that this provocation was undertaken in response to the de-escalation initiatives recently undertaken on the Ukrainian side. Despite numerous statements on its aspirations for peace, the Kremlin's actions indicate a clear intention to continue its hybrid war against Ukraine.

We reiterate that Ukraine will not recognize the Kremlin's decrees on "passportization".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine resolutely demands that Russia immediately revoke all aggressive decisions regarding Ukraine and invalidate their negative consequences.

Against the backdrop of these latest actions by the Kremlin, the Ministry has already prepared, for consideration by the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, a list of measures to defend national security and protect the legitimate rights and interests of Ukrainian citizens in accordance with international law and Ukrainian legislation.

We demand that Russia cease this act of undermining the peace efforts within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group and that Russia instead start implementing its obligations.

We expect our international partners not to recognize those Russian documents or any legal acts, and to strengthen individual and sectoral sanctions, as they are the only international instruments that will force the Kremlin to abide by the peace process.
