

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
27 March 2020

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session**

Agenda items 31 (a), 63 and 70 (c)

Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine****Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights
situations and reports of special rapporteurs
and representatives****Security Council
Seventy-fifth year****Letter dated 25 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, on the impact of COVID-19 on the maintenance of international peace and security, dated 24 March 2020 (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31 (a), 63 and 70 (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sergiy Kyslytsya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 25 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, on the impact of COVID-19 on the maintenance of international peace and security

Kyiv, 24 March 2020

Ukraine, whose population suffers from an ongoing foreign armed aggression, supports the United Nations Secretary-General appeals for peace in light of the rapidly deteriorating epidemiological situation with the worldwide spread of the COVID-19 virus.

For all these six years, we have been calling on the aggressor state and its armed formations for a ceasefire, seeking its implementation through various negotiation formats and international organizations.

I am convinced that the UN Security Council as the main organ with a primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security should immediately consider the situation in connection with the spread of COVID-19 as a threat to international peace and security, to urge parties for a ceasefire in all situations of armed conflict, including in Ukraine, where the Russian occupation forces continue shelling despite the reached agreements, and to take as a priority measures to counter the spread of COVID-19, especially in the conditions of armed conflicts, paying special attention to situations in combat zones and in occupied territories, including in Ukraine.

In this context, the proper compliance by States with norms of international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, is crucial.

The UN Security Council should back the Secretary-General's call for enhancing the humanitarian assistance to the countries most affected by COVID-19, ensuring unimpeded international access to populations, which suffer or are under threat of the spread of coronavirus in the situations of armed conflicts.

I expect the UN Security Council to call for continued efforts to fight the COVID-19 threat, while ensuring the highest possible balance between the introduction of urgent exceptional measures to arrest the threat for nations and respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The United Nations should continue to focus its attention on vulnerable populations, to strengthen urgent interaction and coordination of international efforts, including within the UN system, so as to overcome the COVID-19 pandemics and its consequences.
