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**General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session**
Agenda item 63**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine****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 a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the denial of access for the monitors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine to the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine (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 63 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 dated 24 March 2020 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the denial of access for the monitors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine to the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine condemns the actions of representatives of the Russian occupation authorities in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which from 21 March have been denying access for patrols of the Special Monitoring Mission of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE SMM) to these territories thus preventing them from conducting monitoring activities as envisaged by the Mission's mandate approved by the OSCE Permanent Council. These facts are reflected in the relevant OSCE SMM reports.

Such actions by the occupation administration of the Russian Federation constitute a direct violation of the OSCE SMM mandate, contradict the Minsk Agreements, as well as the Common Agreed Conclusions of the Paris Summit in the Normandy format of 9 December 2019, according to which the SMM must have a safe and secure access throughout the entire territory of Ukraine for the full implementation of its mandate.

Such limitation of access of the OSCE SMM to the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions introduced under the pretext of the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus is unacceptable, including from the perspective of safety of international monitors. The Government of Ukraine, having temporarily closed the passage through the contact line to people and vehicles in order to effectively counter and prevent the introduction of the coronavirus to the territory under control of the Government of Ukraine, made a relevant exclusion to allow passage of representatives of the OSCE and UN monitoring missions, as well as those of the ICRC in line with already existing regulations.

We urge the international community, first of all the participants of the Normandy format, to keep the pressure on the Russian Federation, which bears responsibility for the situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, in order to ensure full and strict implementation of the Minsk agreements by Russia.
