

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
17 April 2020

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-fourth session
Agenda items 63 and 70 (c)**Security Council**
Seventy-fifth year**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****Letter dated 16 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Further to my previous communications and referring to the General Assembly resolutions on the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the temporary occupation of the territories of Ukraine, including the most recent one, namely resolution [74/168](#), on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following.

The Russian Federation as occupying Power continues to violate international law, including its obligations under international humanitarian law, in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. We reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to abide by its international obligations and implement all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

In view of the deteriorating situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, Ukraine remains gravely concerned about the fate of citizens of Ukraine who live in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as those who have been illegally detained by the Russian Federation on politically motivated grounds in the occupied territories and in the Russian Federation.

In this regard, please find attached herewith the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on demands to the Russian Federation as an occupying State to protect the life and health of the population of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (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 items 63 and 70 (c), and of the Security Council.

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



Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2020 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 demands to the Russian Federation as an occupying State to protect the life and health of the population of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

15 April 2020

In the context of the spread of acute respiratory disease COVID-19, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses concern about the state of protection of life and health of the population of the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The ongoing armed aggression of the Russian Federation makes it impossible for the Ukrainian side to provide assist the population of the temporarily occupied territories directly. Aid from the international community also becomes significantly difficult in the context of continued hostilities and the actual closure of access by the occupation administration to the OSCE SMM, the UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international humanitarian organizations.

The obligation of the Russian Federation as an occupying State under international humanitarian law is to take all necessary measures to protect life and health of the population of these territories.

In particular, under Article 56 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, the occupying state is obliged to ensure and maintain in the occupied territory satisfactory healthcare and hygiene conditions and must take the prophylactic and preventive measures necessary to combat the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics.

We demand from the Russian Federation to give on a constant basis exhaustive information on the spread of coronavirus disease on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and on measures it undertakes to assist the population of these territories to cope with the pandemic.

We call on the Russian Federation to fully guarantee the right to life and access to healthcare for illegally detained Ukrainians, to provide full and comprehensive access for the international monitoring missions and ICRC representatives, as well as medical workers to the population of the temporarily occupied territories to provide qualified medical examination, treatment, and humanitarian assistance.

The diplomatic note with these demands was transmitted to the Russian side.

We call on the international community to ensure unblocking of the access to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine by Russia for provision of such assistance.