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Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

**Letter dated 26 February 2022 from the Permanent
Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of 26 February 2022 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia's false and offensive allegations of genocide as a pretext for its unlawful military aggression against 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 items 35 (a) and 67, and of the Security Council.

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



Annex to the letter dated 26 February 2022 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 false and offensive allegations of genocide as a pretext for its unlawful military aggression against Ukraine

26 February 2022

Over the past two days, the world has observed unprecedented and brutal aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Looking for justification of its groundless and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Federation has cynically distorted to a perversion of the international community's most solemn human rights commitments.

In 1948, after emerging from the horrors of World War II, the international community united to create the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Altogether, the world defined the crime of genocide and pledged to prevent and punish it. But the Russian Federation has twisted the concept of genocide and the solemn treaty obligations concerning genocide to justify aggression and its blatant human rights violations.

The top military and political leadership of the Russian Federation has publicly tried to justify its aggression against Ukraine as a means of preventing and punishing the genocide that is purportedly taking place in our country.

This brazen manipulation has no factual basis, as the world well knows. Ukraine resolutely denies Russia's allegations of genocide and rejects any attempt to use such manipulative allegations as an excuse for its unlawful aggression. The crime of genocide is defined in the Genocide Convention, and under that Convention, Russia's claims are baseless and absurd.

Russia's claims of genocide as justification for its lawless conduct are an insult to the Genocide Convention itself and the international community's relentless efforts in preventing and punishing the world's most egregious crime.

Russia must immediately cease its unlawful aggression against Ukraine taken under this groundless pretext.

Russia's lie is all the more offensive and ironic because it appears that Russia has been planning acts of genocide in Ukraine. Russia is intentionally killing and inflicting severe injury on individuals of Ukrainian nationality. These actions are inseparable from Putin's rhetoric, who denies the very existence of the Ukrainian people, which suggests the deliberate killings by Russia of genocide.