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Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Note verbale dated 31 March 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva hereby draws the attention of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the continuous attempts by the Russian Federation to push through participation of representatives of the Russian occupying authorities in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, in the proceedings of the Human Rights Council. In particular, we refer to the recent case, on 28 March 2025, when a representative of the Russian occupying authorities, Georgiy Muradov, attempted to deliver a statement on behalf of the Russian Federation during the general debate on agenda item 9 during the fifty-eighth session of the Council.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine wishes to reiterate that such actions by the Russian Federation are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a number of General Assembly resolutions, namely resolutions 68/262, 71/205, 72/190, 73/263, 74/168, 75/192, 76/179, 77/229, 78/221 and 79/184. In particular, in its resolution 68/262, the Assembly called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration to the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status, while in its resolutions 75/192, 76/179, 77/229, 78/221 and 79/184, the Assembly stipulated that the organs, bodies of the Russian Federation and their representatives in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine are illegitimate and should be referred to as “occupying authorities of the Russian Federation”.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine wishes to emphasize that the participation of representatives of the occupying authorities of the Russian Federation in the proceedings of the Human Rights Council is illegitimate and undermines the mandate, methods of work, authority and credibility of the Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to take all steps necessary to ensure that its actions and dealings, as well as those of Member States, are in full compliance with the Charter and international law and in line with relevant General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions regarding the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.



The Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests that the present note verbale be circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council and be referenced in the report of the Council on its fifty-eighth session.
