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**Promotion and protection of human rights: human
rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs
and representatives****Security Council
Seventieth year****Letter dated 6 November 2015 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I would like to inform you that the report of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Nils Muižnieks, following his visit to Ukraine from 29 June to 3 July 2015, was released on 3 November 2015. In the course of his visit the Commissioner travelled to Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kramatorsk and the non-government-controlled parts of the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Ukraine highly appreciates the Commissioner's unbiased approach to describing the humanitarian situation and the situation with respect to human rights and freedoms against the backdrop of the ongoing external military aggression.

In this regard, Ukraine draws attention to the fact that Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is the only reason for the significant deterioration of the human rights situation in Donbas. Numerous resolutions of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calling for Russian authorities to withdraw their troops from the territory of Ukraine have been left unimplemented. According to international humanitarian law and international human rights law, it is Russia that is responsible for the observance and protection of human rights in the occupied territories of Donbas.

The illegal actions of the Russian Federation and the situation of public emergency threatening the life of the nation forced Ukraine to derogate from certain obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which remain under the effective control of the Ukrainian side. Realizing its sovereign right for derogation foreseen by these international instruments, Ukraine remains committed to their principles and confirms its intention to further implement them in good faith.

Ukraine entirely shares the Commissioner's concern regarding the impediments that the illegal armed groups backed by Russia create for the activities of international humanitarian organizations, causing suffering among the most



vulnerable groups of the local population. Therefore, Ukraine once again calls upon the Russian Federation to take measures in order to restore the unhindered work of the international humanitarian organizations in the occupied territories.

Ukraine, together with the Council of Europe, will continue to work on the implementation of the national strategy on human rights. Its implementation will allow for the removal of the problematic issues that were identified in the Commissioner's report, in particular those concerning the rights of children and internally displaced persons and the reform of the judicial and law enforcement systems.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
