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Organizational and procedural matters

Note verbale dated 16 July 2021 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 transmits herewith a letter of the Permanent Representative of Ukraine, Yevhenia Filipenko, addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council, in connection with the attempted participation of representatives of the occupation authorities of the Russian Federation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, in the proceedings of the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests that the present note verbale and the annex thereto* be registered and circulated as a document of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 1.

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.



Annex to the note verbale dated 16 July 2021 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

Letter of the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

I have the honor to address you in connection with the continuing attempts by the Russian Federation to exploit the United Nations Human Rights Council as a tool in its ongoing aggression against my country.

The most recent of these hostile acts took place in the framework of the 47th session of the Council when representatives of the occupying power in Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol attempted to participate on behalf of the delegation of the Russian Federation in the interactive dialogue on human rights situation on Ukraine and in the interactive dialogue on systemic racism.

In this regard, I wish to once again recall the UN General Assembly resolution 68/262, which calls “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”.

The explicit substance of this provision points to an indisputable conclusion that the consistent efforts by the Russian Federation to push through participation of representatives of the occupation authorities in Crimea in the proceedings of the Council as part of its delegation have the sole purpose of legitimizing its illegal attempted annexation of the Ukrainian territory and exploiting the Human Rights Council as a diplomatic weapon in its ongoing aggression against Ukraine.

In light of such profound implications, the Ukrainian Side cannot and will not accept these continuous encroachments on our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will utilize every legal, procedural and political tool at its disposal to counter them.

I wish to also draw your attention to the most recent UN General Assembly resolution 75/192 “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine” which “calls upon all international organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, when referring to Crimea in their official documents, communications, publications, information and reports ... to refer to “the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation”, and to refer to bodies of the Russian Federation and their representatives in Crimea as “occupation authorities of the Russian Federation”, and encourages all States and other international organizations to do the same”.

It is our expectation that the Council's work will be further guided by the provisions of the UN General Assembly resolutions regarding the status of Crimea and designation of representatives of the Russian occupation administration.

I count, Madame President, on your leadership in properly addressing this issue, which will serve as yet another contribution of yours to the improvement of the Council's work.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Yevhenia **Filipenko**
Permanent Representative of Ukraine