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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE
THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISASTER AT CHERNOBYL

Letter dated 16 September 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the letter of the Chairman of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid M. Kravchuk, regarding the United Nations pledging conference to mobilize support for cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, to be convened on 20 September 1991 (see annex).

I request you to circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under items 12 and 88 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Guennadi I. OUDOVENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

* A/46/150.

ANNEX

Letter dated 11 September 1991 from the Chairman of the
Supreme Rada of Ukraine addressed to Heads of the States
Members of the United Nations

The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which occurred more than five years ago, is the greatest technological and ecological catastrophe of modern times. It caused heavy material losses and has caused significant deterioration to the health and living standards of millions of people.

The accident disrupted life and economic activity over the territory of Ukraine and led to the loss of numerous archaeological, historic and cultural relics and monuments. A territory of about 40 thousand square kilometres, with 2,100 human settlements and 2.5 million people, including 660,000 children, has been subjected to radioactive contamination.

The economic losses Ukraine suffered as a result of the catastrophe over the period from 1986 to 1990 have reached more than 30 billion rubles.

Versatile work to address its consequences is being carried out on the territories affected by the accident.

As time passes by it becomes evident that the solution of problems of the Chernobyl catastrophe requires efficient long-term international cooperation and consolidation of efforts of different countries, international organizations, research centres, charity funds and individuals.

The Supreme Rada of Ukraine highly appreciated the resolution on international cooperation to address and mitigate the aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The resolution is regarded as a confirmation of the readiness of the world community to mobilize its efforts aimed at solving the ecological, economic, social, medical, scientific and technical problems caused by the Chernobyl explosion.

In accordance with the resolution and with the assistance of organizations of the United Nations system a joint plan of international cooperation to alleviate the effects of the Chernobyl accident was developed. One of the important stages of such cooperation will be the United Nations pledging conference planned to be held in New York on 20 September 1991, which is intended to collect contributions to the United Nations Chernobyl fund for financing projects of the plan.

I would like to appeal to you and to the Governments and the peoples of the world to participate actively in the conference and to assist materially in the realization of the programmes of international cooperation in this field.

The Government and the people of Ukraine, for their part, will do their utmost to implement the projects elaborated. The financial contribution of our Republic alone to the United Nations joint plan on Chernobyl, not taking into account the existing infrastructures, buildings, services of the qualified personnel and so on, will reach more than 200 million rubles.

I am convinced that the United Nations pledging conference will serve the cause of strengthening principles of good, humanism and charity.

Leonid M. Kravchuk,
Chairman of the Supreme Rada of
Ukraine
