

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 6 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit the concept note for the Security Council open debate, in connection with the item entitled “Maintenance of international peace and security”, on the theme “Upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations through effective multilateralism: maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine”, to be held on the morning of 20 September 2023 (see annex).

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ferit **Hoxha**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 6 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Concept note for the Security Council high-level open debate on the theme “Upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations through effective multilateralism: maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine”, 20 September 2023

Overview

The United Nations was created from the ashes of the devastation of the Second World War with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security by promoting multilateralism, dialogue and solidarity among the nations. One of the foundational purposes and principles of the United Nations is the commitment to settle disputes through peaceful means and the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

Seventy-eight years later, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations are under threat and the world is undergoing profound transformations. Traditional challenges to peace and security are amplified by conflict, climate change, pandemics, cyberattacks, misuse of technology and dangerous behaviour by non-State actors, including terrorist groups and mercenaries. These compounded challenges are affecting many countries around the globe and are challenging the international system.

Collaboration, inclusion and solidarity, as basic elements of multilateralism, together with diplomacy, have been central and essential to collective efforts for peace and security in our world. Although not always a synonym for success, multilateralism has proven to be by far the best way for nations to confront ideas, express their different positions and views and seek common ground with shared benefits.

The Charter of the United Nations clearly states that “all Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means” and that “all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state”. This represents the quintessential basis of multilateralism upon which States base their relations, understanding and efforts to solve individual and common challenges. It is through such common efforts that we have been able to achieve tangible results in many areas, including reduction of poverty and inequality, arms control and the promotion of respect for human rights.

Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is not only contrary to security assurances that Russia provided to Ukraine in the Budapest Memorandum, but has challenged the fundamental principles of the international rules-based order by disregarding the sanctity of borders and violating the prohibition on the threat or use of force under Article 2 (4). It has put multilateralism under strain and has raised questions about the role and functioning of the United Nations, including the Security Council, in addressing such crises. It has highlighted the vulnerabilities and limitations of the multilateral system, and it has tested the commitment of Member States to uphold the principles enshrined in the Charter.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which began in 2014 with its purported annexation of Crimea, and Russia’s use of proxy forces in eastern Ukraine, is not justified and has been widely condemned by the international community, including the General Assembly.

Furthermore, Russia's actions have also highlighted the limitations of multilateralism in addressing and preventing such conflicts. The inability of the Security Council to take effective action on this issue due to the misuse of veto power has undermined the credibility and efficacy of the Council in maintaining international peace and security.

This has led to renewed calls for reforming the Security Council to make it more representative and capable of responding to global crises, and has highlighted the need for continued efforts to strengthen and adapt multilateral and international institutions to effectively tackle complex global issues and maintain international peace and security.

We need more than ever to find the best ways to maintain international peace and security. We can do so by abiding by the purposes and principles of the Charter, and by upholding and respecting international law through effective multilateralism to make sure that the international community remains the embodiment of our common efforts in a world governed by the rules.

Objective

This high-level open debate aims to address the implications of Russia's aggression against Ukraine with regard to multilateralism based on international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and to consider all the necessary collective efforts to reinforce the international rules-based order and strengthen multilateralism.

At a time when the multilateral order based on the respect of international law is seriously challenged by a war of aggression, leaders are expected to come together and reiterate the importance of upholding the Charter to promote and defend effective multilateralism.

This meeting aims to invoke the need to work together to prevent future violations of international law and to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts through diplomatic means and dialogue.

Guiding questions

1. How has Russia's war against Ukraine impacted the functioning of multilateralism in general and that of the United Nations in particular, and what are the responsibilities of Member States in undertaking collective action in preserving the Charter of the United Nations?
2. What are the consequences for the United Nations Security Council as the body entrusted with the responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security and the prevention of conflict?
3. How to achieve an end to the war in Ukraine in line with the Charter and Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity?

Format

The high-level open debate will be chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, Edi Rama.

As this high-level open debate will take place during the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly, members and non-members of the Security Council are encouraged to be represented at the level of head of delegation.

Member States wishing to participate should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE+. A letter addressed to the

President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires, a.i., requesting to participate in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE+.

Inscription for the list of speakers will open at 9:30 a.m. on 15 September 2023.

The presidency would welcome the use of joint statements, where appropriate, as a means of improving the efficient use of time during the open debate.

In accordance with Security Council note [S/2017/507](#), all participants and members of the Security Council are encouraged to deliver succinct statements, with non-members of the Council limiting their statements to no longer than four minutes.
