



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 5 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

We would like to express our strongest protest and disappointment with another clear abuse by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of its prerogatives within just five days since the beginning of its presidency of the Security Council.

On 5 April, the President of the Security Council granted the virtual participation of Mr. V. Zelenskyy in the Council's meeting on Ukraine under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure. This runs contrary to the established practice. We recall that the United Kingdom announced at the beginning of its presidency that it intends to continue and expand the after coronavirus disease (COVID-19) "back to normal" activities in the Security Council Chamber. Thus, it ignored the principle that all Member States invited to address the Council in accordance with rule 37 should do this in person. We would like to underline that Mr. V. Zelenskyy's virtual participation should not be viewed as a precedent for the future work of the Council.

Unfortunately, after this initiative, a more grave abuse followed during the same Security Council meeting when the presidency allowed the playing of a video clip chosen by the Ukrainian delegation. We would like to stress that such a practice undermines the foundation and spirit of the work of the Council. In-person participation, diplomacy and negotiations are the core principles of the Council and its Chamber. Displaying videos and images on the screen devalues and belittles the role of all Council members.

This move by the United Kingdom presidency was especially awkward, as the clip played by the Ukrainian delegation turned out to be a fake, immediately debunked by Internet users. We referred to this attempt to spread disinformation in the Council in our statement and strongly believe that such incidents are unacceptable.

We would like to stress yet another time that such a start to the United Kingdom presidency risks to have implications on our future work and on the mood in the Council in general. We hope that the presidency will perform its functions in accordance with the established rules and traditions.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vassily Nebenzia

