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**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

Security Council
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Letter dated 25 August 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the unlawful organization by the Russian Federation of the so-called “elections” to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine (17–19 September 2021).

The Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine; their legal regime is governed by the relevant norms of international humanitarian law.

The holding of sham “elections” in these territories is not legitimate, and their results are legally null and void. Such actions of the Russian Federation represent a grave violation of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, as well as fundamental norms and principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War of 12 August 1949, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of 1 August 1975, obligations of the Russian Federation under bilateral international treaties, and other norms of international law.

They also violate General Assembly resolution [68/262](#) of 27 March 2014, entitled “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”, and resolutions [71/205](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/190](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/263](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/168](#) of 18 December 2019 and [75/192](#) of 16 December 2020, entitled “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine”, as well as resolutions [73/194](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/17](#) of 9 December 2019 and [75/29](#) of 7 December 2020, entitled “Problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov”.

In addition to these violations the aggressor state plans to engage in the election process citizens of Ukraine who live in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and who were illegally granted Russian citizenship.



The involvement of Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as almost 1.5 million voters currently living in the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, in unlawful “elections” will significantly distort the results of the elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation and generally call them into question.

In this regard, Ukraine calls on the United Nations and its Member States:

- To condemn the illegal actions of the Russian Federation and state unequivocally their non-recognition of the results of the so-called “elections” in the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as the illegal participation in these elections of Ukrainian citizens living in the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions
- To refrain from sending any observers to the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol during the so-called “elections”
- To impose sanctions on persons involved in the organization and the conduct of illegitimate elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

Using this opportunity, I would also like to refer to the legal procedures for visiting the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol stipulated in the legislation of Ukraine. Violations of these provisions may entail administrative or criminal liability.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sergiy Kyslytsya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
