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

**Security Council
Seventy-sixth year**

**Letter dated 8 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith an appeal of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on the illegitimacy of the 2021 elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Russian Federation (see annex), adopted on 22 September 2021 through resolution 1773-IX of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 67, and of the Security Council.

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



Annex to the letter dated 8 October 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine regarding the illegitimacy of the 2021 elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Russian Federation

The regular elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Russian Federation took place on September 17–19, 2021. The elections unlawfully took place on the territory of Ukraine that is temporary occupied by the Russian Federation – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Moreover, the citizens of Ukraine – residents of the temporary occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, who were illegitimately issued passports of citizens of the Russian Federation, – have been unlawfully involved in the voting.

For the first time, the Russian Federation – one of the member-states of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (hereinafter, OSCE) – have not provided a proper working environment for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), thus obstructing the observation of electoral process to the State Duma of the Russian Federation by the representatives of the international OSCE mission in accordance with democratic standards.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine draws attention to the following aspects of how these pseudo elections were organized and held on the temporary occupied territory of Ukraine with involvement of the citizens of Ukraine – residents of the temporary Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine:

- (1) Inclusion of the citizens of Ukraine on the voter lists of the 2021 Russian State Duma elections is unlawful and groundless as concerns the Constitution of Ukraine and international law, since the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are the integral part of Ukraine, while making the citizens of Ukraine – residents of the temporarily occupied territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts – acquire citizenship of the Russian Federation is a violation of international humanitarian law;
- (2) Organization of voting in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and involvement into elections in temporary occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukrainian citizens with illegitimately issued passports of the Russian Federation citizens is null and void from legal standpoint, since Ukrainian citizens – residents of temporary occupied territories of Ukraine – were baselessly included onto the voter lists for the 2021 election of deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, which led to falsification of voter lists;
- (3) The process of putting together the so-called “voter lists” in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as temporary occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts for the 2021 Russian State Duma elections, has signs of yet another violation of the principles of international humanitarian law by the Russian Federation with regard to the prohibition for an occupying power to transfer its own population into the territory of a state it had occupied, considering that the process of crossing the internationally recognized state border of Ukraine by the citizens of Russian Federation is uncontrolled.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine reminds that:

The temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, by the Russian Federation is the gross violation of generally accepted principles and norms of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe dated August 1, 1975, the Memorandum on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, dated December 5, 1994, as well as other international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a signatory and a participant;

Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders is acknowledged by General Assembly resolution [68/262](#), "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" (dated March 27, 2014); General Assembly resolutions "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" [71/205](#) (dated December 19, 2016), [72/190](#) (dated December 19, 2017), [73/263](#) (dated December 22, 2018); General Assembly resolutions "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" [73/194](#) (dated December 17, 2018), [74/17](#) (dated December 9, 2019) and [75/29](#) (dated December 7, 2020); as well as General Assembly resolutions "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" [74/168](#) (dated December 18, 2019) and [75/192](#) (dated December 16, 2020);

That adherence to the Helsinki Final Act, adopted on August 1, 1975 and its principles regulating mutual relations of its participating states, including those of territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers, serve as a guarantor of international peace and security.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine deems the 2021 regular elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Russian Federation illegal, considers the State Duma of the Russian Federation, formed upon its results, as illegitimate and calls upon foreign parliaments and international parliamentary organizations to properly assess the falsified parliamentary elections in the Russian Federation, facts of illegal voting on the territory of illegally occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city Sevastopol, as well as participation in these elections of the citizens of Ukraine from temporary occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.