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**General Assembly  
Seventy-sixth session**  
Agenda items 35 (a) and 67**Security Council  
Seventy-seventh year****Prevention of armed conflict****The situation in the temporarily occupied  
territories of Ukraine****Letter dated 8 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of  
Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the appeal of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and their parliamentary assemblies, and foreign Governments and parliaments regarding the non-recognition of preparations for the holding of pseudo-referendums by the occupying administrations of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 29 July 2022 (see annex).

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 35 (a) and agenda item 67, and of the Security Council.

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



**Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and their parliamentary assemblies, and foreign Governments and parliaments regarding the non-recognition of preparations for the holding of pseudo-referendums by the occupying administrations of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine**

The armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, having been underway since 2014, has turned into a full-scale armed invasion of the Russian armed forces into Ukraine since February 24, 2022. Having occupied certain territories of Ukraine, the aggressor state also seeks to change their legal status by arranging pseudo-referendums, thus grossly violating the core principles and universally recognized norms of international law, first of all those envisaging respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine's borders.

According to numerous reports of Ukrainian and foreign media, the authorities of the Russian Federation, their officials, administrations of the occupying power intend to hold pseudo-referendums in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, aimed at changing the legal status of these territories and subsequently annexing them to the Russian Federation.

In this regard, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine emphasizes that the organization and conduct of fake "expression of the will of people" in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine contradicts the established principles of the international legal order as well as Articles 1, 2, 73, 85, 92, 132, 133 of the Constitution of Ukraine, according to which:

- Ukraine is a sovereign and independent, democratic, social, law-based state;
- the sovereignty of Ukraine extends throughout its entire territory. Ukraine is a unitary state. The territory of Ukraine within its present border is indivisible and inviolable;
- issues of altering the territory of Ukraine are resolved exclusively by an all-Ukrainian referendum;
- designation of an all-Ukrainian referendum on the issue of altering the territory of Ukraine belongs to the authority of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;
- the organization and procedure for conducting elections and referendums are determined exclusively by the laws of Ukraine;
- the territorial structure of Ukraine is based on the principles of unity and integrity of the state territory, the combination of centralization and decentralization in the exercise of state power, and the balance of socio-economic development of regions that takes into account their historical, economic, ecological, geographical and demographic features, ethnic and cultural traditions;
- the system of administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine is composed of: the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, oblasts, districts, cities, cities' districts, towns and villages.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine strongly condemns any attempt by occupation administrations of the aggressor state - the Russian Federation – to organize and hold pseudo-referendums in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. In the event of their holding, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine will consider the results of such illegal votes to be null and void and have no legal consequences.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine addresses to the United Nations, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and their parliamentary assemblies, governments and parliaments of the countries of the world and calls:

- to unite the efforts of the international community to ensure the integrity and inviolability of the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;
- use all necessary means to warn the aggressor state – the Russian Federation – and its top political leadership against organizing and holding pseudo-referendums in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, which will not have any legal consequences;
- not to recognize the legitimacy of any forms of “expression of the will of people” in the event of their organization and holding in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;
- to increase international political and economic pressure on the Russian Federation, a state sponsor of terrorism, with the aim of halting its armed aggression against Ukraine and restoring Ukraine’s territorial integrity;
- to facilitate the criminal prosecution of persons who took an active part in the organization and holding of illegal referendums and political events in the territories of Ukraine occupied by the Russian Federation; who publicly called for their holding; who carried out information and other activities in cooperation with the aggressor state and/or its occupying administrations aimed at supporting the aggressor state, its occupying administration or armed formations and/or avoiding responsibility by the Russian Federation for the armed aggression against Ukraine.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine calls on residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine not to participate in the provocative and illegal pseudo-referendums that the aggressor state intends to hold, thereby demonstrating the unity of the Ukrainian people and the inviolability of the borders of Ukraine.

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