

COMMITTEE OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE
on Foreign Policy and
Interparliamentary Cooperation
5, Hrushevskoho Str., Kyiv, 01008, www.rada.gov.ua

To the foreign policy committees of the parliaments of the UN Member States

Dear colleagues!

On behalf of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation, I would like to address you on the following.

On February 23, 2023, during the 11-th Extraordinary Special Session of the UN General Assembly, the resolution "Principles of the UN Charter, underpinning a comprehensive, just and sustainable peace in Ukraine" was adopted, which clearly reflects the vision of ways to achieve peace in Ukraine.

According to paragraph 5 of the Peace Formula of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the restoration of the world order and ensuring universal respect to the UN Charter is possible only through the restoration of the territorial integrity of the state of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The international community must ensure that Russia respects and complies with the UN Charter, which is the key to upholding its goals and principles.

Since Russia's illegal accession into the UN Security Council, the latter has been unable to make mandated decisions to protect international peace and security, which is its main area of competence. Thus, since 1991, the Russian Federation has used its veto 34 times, while the United States - 19, China - 17, the United Kingdom and France - 0.

Ukraine considers the reform of the UN Security Council as one of the key elements of updating the international security architecture, necessary for its successful adaptation to the realities of today.

In September 2023, at the meeting of the UN Security Council, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented Ukraine's priorities of the UN Security Council reform. It was proposed to override the veto of permanent members of the UN Security Council by two-thirds of the UN General Assembly, to expand the permanent membership of the UN Security Council and to introduce a mechanism of preventive sanctions as a tool to deter violations of the UN Charter and international law.

One of the key issues that needs to be addressed in the framework of the upcoming reform of the UN Security Council is the unresolved status of the Russian Federation, which illegally enjoys the rights of a permanent member of the body. It should be recalled that after the collapse of the USSR, the Russian Federation essentially seized this seat by bypassing the procedure provided for by the UN Charter.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine was at the forefront of drawing international attention to this issue. On December 1, 2022, it approved the Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the recognition of the Russian regime as a terrorist regime, the illegitimacy of the Russian Federation's membership in the United Nations and its reform, the responsibility of members of Russian political parties supporting the aggression, in which, following the President of Ukraine, sent a clear message to the international community about the illegitimacy of the aggressor state's membership in the UN. This position is also shared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, as officially stated on December 26, 2022.

Thus, the leadership of Ukraine, the legislative and executive branches of government are united in their intent to carry out comprehensive and systemic work aimed at consolidating international support for Ukraine's initiatives to reform the UN Security Council, development of creative ways to establish historical justice regarding the Russian Federation's membership in this body, as well as engagement of leading experts, representatives of international political community and opinion leaders from all regions of the world into these processes.

Ukraine is making considerable efforts to facilitate the reform of the UN Security Council and to act as a driver of this process. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine intends to actively use the inter-parliamentary dimension to make a constructive contribution to this work.

Emphasizing the illegitimacy and lack of statutory grounds for the Russian Federation's membership in the UN Security Council and the Organization in general, as well as the inconsistency of the criminal policy of this country with the status of a "peace-loving state" which, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph 1, of the UN Charter, is the main criterion for membership in the Organization, we call on the parliaments of like-minded states to assess this fact.

The Ukrainian Parliament invites its fellow colleagues and lawmakers of foreign nations to discuss our country's perspectives to the issues concerned to consider the widest possible range of constructive ideas and approaches.

Let me, dear colleagues, take this opportunity to express my sincere consideration.

Chairman of the Committee

E-signed

O. MERZHKO



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Nº 6128/22-012-35748

VERBAL NOTE

The Embassy of Ukraine in the Italian Republic presents its compliments to the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Malta and has the honour to transmit herewith the letter of Chairman of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Foreign Policy and Interparliamentary Cooperation Mr. Oleksandr Merezhko, addressed to the Foreign Policy Committees of the parliaments of the UN member states (attached with unofficial translation into English).

The Embassy would appreciate the esteemed Ministry taking note of the above-mentioned information, as well as bringing it to the attention of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Malta.

The Embassy of Ukraine in the Italian Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Malta the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl: as stated



Rome, March 13, 2024

**Ministry for Foreign and
European Affairs and Trade
of the Republic of Malta**

Valletta