



19 March 2014

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Dear Sirs:

Re: Urgent call for effective collective measures by the United Nations in response to Russia's illegal acts of aggression against Ukraine

The Charter of the United Nations provides that:

Article 1

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.

Article 2

2. All Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the present Charter.
3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

Article 33

1. The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.

The unprecedented in the 21st century invasion of Ukraine by Russian armed forces, and the forceful and illegal “*annexation*” of Crimea to Russia, are blatant violations by the Russian Federation, led by President Vladimir Putin, of the Charter of the United Nations, the essential principles of international law and numerous international agreements to which the Russian Federation is a signatory, including the 1994 Budapest *Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine’s accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*.

In this 1994 Budapest Memorandum, Russia reaffirmed its commitment:

1. [...] to respect the Independence and Sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine;
2. [...] to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine [...].

In return, Ukraine agreed “*to eliminate all nuclear weapons from its territory*”.

Ukraine fully complied with this commitment under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and gave up the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

On the other hand, when Russian troops marched into Crimea in late February 2014, they clearly violated the fundamental precepts on which the United Nations and all international order is founded, including the Charter of the United Nations and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, destroyed peace in the region and threatened security and stability throughout the world.

Should the global community fail to reverse the Russian occupation of Ukraine, it will undermine the international rule of law, call into question all international agreements, including nuclear arms and international security agreements, and will render the world a much more dangerous place in which to live.

If not firmly challenged, Russia’s invasion of Crimea may result in similar actions in different regions by the same or other authoritarian regimes emboldened by the belief that there will be no substantive consequences for their intolerable behaviour.

On 14 December 1974, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 3314 (XXIX) entitled *Definition of Aggression*, which provides that:

Article 1

Aggression is the use of armed forces by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations [...].

Article 3

Any of the following acts, regardless of a declaration of war [...], qualify as an act of aggression:

- (a) The invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof;
- (b) Bombardment by the armed forces of a State against the territory of another State or the use of any weapons by a State against the territory of another State;

- (c) The blockade of the ports or coasts of a State by the armed forces of another State;
- (d) An attack by the armed forces of a State on the land, sea or air forces, or marine and air fleets of another State;
- (e) The use of armed forces of one State which are within the territory of another State with the agreement of the receiving State, in contravention of the conditions provided for in the agreement or any extension of their presence in such territory beyond the termination of the agreement;
- (f) The action of a State in allowing its territory, which it has placed at the disposal of another State, to be used by that other State for perpetrating an act of aggression against a third State;
- (g) The sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries, which carry out acts of armed force against another State of such gravity as to amount to the acts listed above, or its substantial involvement therein.

The Ukrainian World Congress urges the United Nations to consider the severity of the repercussions on global peace and security of President Vladimir Putin's actions and imperialistic ambitions and to urgently take effective collective measures in response to Russia's illegal acts of aggression against Ukraine by:

- confirming that no threat to Russian or other minorities exists in Ukraine, that Russia's claims to the contrary are without basis and that the presence of Russia's forces in Ukraine (including Crimea) are illegal and constitute a clear act of aggression pursuant to the UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX);
- suspending Russia's rights and privileges of membership in the United Nations in view of its flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations in accordance with Article 18.2 of the said Charter;
- sending UN peacekeeping forces to Ukraine to protect it from any further invasion by Russia; and
- applying severe sanctions against Russia for its outrageous violations of world peace and security.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

c.c. His Excellency Oleksandr Turchynov, Acting President of Ukraine
His Excellency Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Prime Minister of Ukraine
Ukrainian World Congress Member Organizations

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 33 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.