

25 October 2016

His Excellency Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

civilsociety@ohchr.org

registry@ohchr.org

Object: UWC support for your position on limiting veto power at the UN Security Council and Request for a meeting

Your Excellency:

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) representing the 20-million strong Ukrainian diaspora welcomes and fully supports your statement of 4 October 2016, specifically:

I firmly believe that the time has come for strong leadership and bold actions, and that the UN Security Council should, without any further delay, adopt criteria to restrain members from using the veto when there are serious concerns that war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide may have been committed.

As you are aware, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status.

Further to your [suggestion](#), we closely follow the reports issued by the UN High Commission for Human Rights and I have had the opportunity to discuss the contents of these reports on two occasions during meetings in New York with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović.

On 19 March 2014 the UWC issued a [letter](#) to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, John W. Ashe, urging 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: [...] 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.

TORONTO – KYIV – BRUSSELS

Head Office: 145 Evans Avenue, Suite 207, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5X8 Canada

Tel: 416.323.3020 E-mail: uwc@ukrainianworldcongress.org Website: www.ukrainianworldcongress.org

In my various meetings with UN officials I have continued to advance the argument that the rights of the Russian Federation should be revoked or suspended because of its blatant violations of the UN Charter.

I congratulate you on your principled and courageous position, and offer the assurance that you have the full support of the UWC and its network throughout 53 countries in promoting this initiative among leaders of the international community.

I would appreciate a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss a strategy to build support for your proposal which can prove to be a significant step in securing peace and stability in the world.

For all scheduling issues, please contact the UWC Liaison Officer to International Organizations Ms. Maryna Iaroshevyh (e-mail: m.iaroshevyh@ukrainianworldcongress.org - tel.: +32 489 629 049).

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

The UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has a network of member organizations and ties with Ukrainians in 53 countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status.

TORONTO – KYIV – BRUSSELS

Head Office: 145 Evans Avenue, Suite 207, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5X8 Canada
Tel: 416.323.3020 E-mail: uwc@ukrainianworldcongress.org Website: www.ukrainianworldcongress.org