



**Permanent Mission  
of Ukraine**  
to the UN

*Check against delivery*

**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations  
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization  
United Nations  
New York  
18 February 2020**

**Mme Chairperson,**

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I will also make a few remarks in the national capacity.

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to the Secretariat for preparation of the meeting and join other delegations in welcoming members of the Bureau.

**Mme Chairperson,**

Against all odds, the UN Charter has withstood dramatic changes in international relations and proved its centrality in today's global architecture as the primary international legal instrument for preserving international peace, with far-reaching effects for the well-being of all peoples.

It is a metaphorical key that the international community can use to unlock the door to a truly peaceful future. But to turn that key, genuine efforts of all UN member states are required.

This year the UN community will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Charter adoption and we hope that this session of the Special Committee will contribute to enhancing the ability of the United Nations to achieve its purposes and principles.

In the context of the item «Maintenance of international peace and security», we share the views that sanctions are powerful non-military response to the threats to global peace and security. They continue to be an important tool for countering terrorism, preventing conflicts, consolidating peace agreements, protecting civilians and curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

**Mme Chairperson,**

We all know too well that since the establishment of the United Nations the basic norms of the Charter have been violated on numerous occasions.

While respect for state sovereignty, peaceful settlement of disputes, restraint from the threat or use of force, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms ostensibly still

constitute universally accepted norms of states behavior, what many states prefer in reality is to apply a “choose and pick” approach in regards to what to follow and what to ignore.

In some particularly egregious cases, blatant violations of the UN Charter bring about armed conflicts, becoming a clear threat to international peace, with far-reaching repercussions for the wellbeing of all peoples. I know that for some it may sound far-fetched or even too abstract. But not for Ukrainians.

For my country, it is nothing but a painful reality – after the 2014 occupation of Crimea the Russian Federation and the launch of its armed aggression in the east of Ukraine.

In this regard, I would like to turn briefly to the item «Peaceful settlement of disputes». Here we proceed from the fact that Article 33 of the Charter envisages an obligation to settle any international disputes peacefully and provides a toolkit to do so. It is in this context that, since the start of the foreign aggression, Ukraine has urged the aggressor state to accept its international legal responsibility.

To this end, we proposed to resolve any existing disputes at the International Court of Justice or by an ad hoc arbitration. And it is the ICJ that issued on 19 April 2017 an Order on provisional measures in the case instituted by Ukraine against the Russian Federation on the interpretation and application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

More than two years have passed, and it has become apparent that Russia chose to ignore the ICJ’s Order. The failure to comply with the Order is documented in the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions. By ignoring the Order, this state keeps violating a binding decision, revealing its contempt to the Court, to the UN Charter and to the international law.

The ICJ decisively rejected Russia’s jurisdictional objections. Ukraine will continue to take forward legal actions that seek to hold Russia accountable for its violations of international law.

Taking this into account our delegation is of the opinion that instead of spending efforts and resources on realizing initiatives of technical nature under the mentioned item, practical implementation of existing legal tools for peaceful settlement of disputes between states should be an absolute priority.

**Mme Chairperson,**

Paying lip service to the Purposes and Principles of the Charter will not suffice anymore. Tolerating their violations will only exacerbate the current seemingly perpetual state of inability to make good on the promise “to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security”, as it is laid down in the Charter.

In this regard, we believe that the Committee should to be strengthened, the examination procedure of proposals should be adjusted in order to enhance the UN ability to promote of the rules of international law in relations between states, as well as prepare robust response of the UN to existing and future challenges.

**Thank you.**