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| Seventy-seventh session  Agenda items 59 and 65 (a)  **The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine**  **Rights of indigenous peoples: rights of indigenous peoples** |  |  |
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Letter dated 13 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of

Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the comment of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations with regard to the release as a document of the General Assembly, under the symbol A/77/812, dated 24 March 2023, the statement of the so-called “council of Crimean Tatars under the head of the republic of Crimea” (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 items 59 and 65 (a).

(*Signed*) Sergiy **Kyslytsya**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative

**Annex to the letter dated 13 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of**

**Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Comment of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations**

**with regard to the release as a document of the General Assembly, under the symbol A/77/812, dated 24 March 2023,**

**the statement of the so-called “council of Crimean Tatars under the head of the republic of Crimea”**

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations condemns in the strongest terms another attempt by the Russian Federation to misuse the United Nations platform to spread outright lies and legitimize the outcomes of its aggression against Ukraine.

The release of the statement of the so-called “council of Crimean Tatars under the head of the republic of Crimea” as a document of the General Assembly, under the symbol A/77/812, dated 24 March 2023, serves the purpose of creating a smokescreen to hide the dire human rights situation in the temporarily occupied Crimean Peninsula, marked in particular by unabated repressions against the Crimean Tatar indigenous people.

With this aim, Russia is attempting to silence the only representative organ of the Crimean Tatar people – the Mejlis, elected by the Crimean Tatar people in accordance with its own procedures and in full compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – creating instead puppet structures, which, as follows from their very titles, are controlled and orchestrated by the Russian occupation administration in Crimea.

It is outrageous that the Russian Federation continues to disregard numerous resolutions of the General Assembly adopted in response to its illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine.

On 27 March 2014, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/262, entitled “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”, affirming its full commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The General Assembly also called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the so-called “referendum”.

Despite the sanctions imposed in response to Russian actions and the clear demands of the international community, the Russian Federation has not abandoned its occupation of Crimea. On the contrary, continuing blatant violations of human rights in Crimea, including indigenous Crimean Tatar people’s rights, have become the tip of an iceberg of Russia’s ongoing all-out aggression against Ukraine, which has taken a terrible human toll, leaving tens of thousands of civilians killed, injured or maimed.

Moreover, for more than six years, the aggressor State has been shamelessly ignoring the decision of the International Court of Justice on the immediate restoration of rights of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People. Despite the decision mentioned, Russian occupiers continue to prohibit the entry of the leaders of the Crimean Tatar people, Mustafa Dzhemilev and Refat Chubarov, to the occupied peninsula, keeping in illegal detention more than 180 Ukrainian citizens from Crimea, including 116 Crimean Tatars, among others the First Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Nariman Dzhelyal, who are being prosecuted on trumped-up and politically motivated charges.

In this regard, we reiterate that all “statements” shared by the aggressor State allegedly on behalf of Crimean Tatars are null and void, do not reflect the real situation of indigenous Crimean Tatar people under Russia’s temporary occupation of Crimea and will be used against Russia in future international trials as evidence of deliberate attempts to conceal the truth about Russia’s crimes and repressions.