

Постоянный представитель
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединенных Наций



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to the United Nations

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New York, "16" March 2022

Excellency,

INSERT: "which we have caused as a result of our illegal war of aggression."

I am reaching out to you with regard to an urgent matter related to the dire humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine. ~~Like other members of the international community,~~ we are ^{not} gravely concerned about its deterioration. **INSERT: because we are the primary cause.**

COMMENT: Yes. But you are attacking civilians, bombing schools and hospitals, and looting aid. Which makes us think you do not actually believe this? Please explain.

We firmly believe that it is the duty of the international community despite of geopolitical differences to make every effort possible to minimize humanitarian consequences for civilian population in Ukraine. The only way to do this is a clear demand on behalf of the UN Security Council to ~~all parties concerned to~~ ^{for Russia to end its illegal war of aggression, cease hostilities,} strictly observe international humanitarian law. ^{and}

Attachment

COMMENT: This move defies any logic or reason.

Guided by ^{zero} ~~this~~ logic, the Russian Federation has proposed in the Security Council an ~~action-oriented, depoliticized, balanced~~ ^{absolutely craven and farcical} draft resolution, which ~~makes equal demands to all parties concerned.~~ ^{implicitly gives cover for our war of aggression and violations of international law.}

~~Our Western colleagues unfortunately chose to promote the anti-Russian line by politicizing humanitarian issue.~~ ^{We are actively the} ~~suffering that we are causing in Ukraine.~~

Permanent Representatives
of the Member States
to the United Nations
New York

COMMENT: Do you think the UN membership actually believes this? Please explain.

To this end, France and Mexico, ~~instead of proposing a balanced text in the Security Council,~~ are planning to put forward a so-called "humanitarian resolution" in the General Assembly. The General Assembly ~~cannot substitute the Security Council~~ ^{has been required to play a role} in the matters related to peace and security. Such a resolution ^{is desperately needed} will be obviously ~~unable~~ to create any practical effect for people on the ground. ~~It will become just another spoiler resolution and an unfortunate example of biased finger-pointing.~~ It will in no way help reduce sufferings of civilians in Ukraine, ^{which we have inflicted.}

INSERT: because we have abused our veto and prevented the Security Council from discharging its responsibility to respond to the very war of aggression that we launched and have continued in violation of international law.

COMMENT: Please see our comment above about the actions of Russian forces that appear to be in direct contravention of international humanitarian law

Our draft demands all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, and also demands that civilians, including women and children, are fully protected. In this context, the document condemns indiscriminate shelling as well as placing military objects and equipment in densely populated areas and near civilian objects and using of such objects for military purposes in violation of the international humanitarian law. It specifically demands all parties concerned to ensure the respect for and protection of all medical personnel, hospitals and other medical facilities. The draft calls upon all parties concerned to allow safe and unhindered passage to destinations outside of Ukraine without discrimination as well as to facilitate safe and unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance to those in need in and around Ukraine, taking into account the particular needs of women, girls, men and boys, older persons and persons with disabilities. This draft calls upon Member States to fund the flash appeal launched by the UN for the humanitarian response in Ukraine and underscores the coordinating role of the UN in respective humanitarian efforts.

COMMENT: How do you account for the bombing of a maternity ward and the destruction of over 200 schools? Please explain.

COMMENT: How do you account for Russian forces besieging cities, preventing civilians from fleeing denying humanitarian aid, attacking humanitarian corridors, and looting aid? Please explain.

COMMENT: Yes, but let's be clear: this flash appeal has been launched because of the war and suffering you have unleashed on Ukraine.


COMMENT: Russian forces have bombed densely-populated residential areas and attacked medical, personnel, hospitals, and other medical facilities. Please explain.

~~We call on the UN membership to support and co-sponsor this draft (guidance for the submission of co-sponsorship is attached for convenience). The action in the Security Council is scheduled for Friday 18 March.~~

~~Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.~~



Vassily Nebenzia



COMMENT: We did not feel this ending sufficiently captured the sheer contempt this letter shows for your fellow UN member states, for the UN Charter, and for international law. Here is an alternate suggestion:

“In asking you to co-sponsor this farcical resolution that we have put forward at the Security Council, likely in violation of the very purposes and principles of the Charter, we want you to know just how little we care about the human life that we have destroyed in Ukraine, and how much disdain we have for you, the membership of the UN, and for this entire institution.

So, if you are ok with all of that, and would like to give us implicit cover for Russia’s illegal war of aggression in contravention of the UN Charter and international law, please co-sponsor our resolution. We would really appreciate it.” Thoughts?