



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS  
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ АВСТРАЛІЇ

Representing 22 Peak Ukrainian Organisations in Australia  
Member of Ukrainian World Congress

21 March 2023

Mr. Damian Cardona Onses  
Director  
UN Information Centre (Australia)

Via email: [unic.canberra@unic.org](mailto:unic.canberra@unic.org)

Dear Mr Onses,

We write to you as the representative body for 52,000 Ukrainian-Australians to express our deep concern about Russia's upcoming presidency of the UN Security Council and to urge the UN to deprive the Russian Federation of the status of a permanent member of the UN Security Council by whatever means possible.

The ICC has issued a warrant for the arrest of Putin on charges of war crimes, focusing on the unlawful deportation of approximately 16,000 children to Russia. The UN last week released a sweeping human rights report condemning Russian attacks against civilians in Ukraine, including systematic torture and killing in occupied regions, saying these amounted to war crimes and possibly crimes against humanity.

For the first time in world history, from 1 April 2023, an aggressor and state sponsor of terrorism will be the President of the Security Council - responsible for maintaining international peace and security. As noted in the United Nations Charter, they will be responsible for:

*'reaffirm[ing] faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and establish[ing] conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained'*

We believe Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine makes it inconceivable that Russia can fulfill these obligations.

Furthermore, three decades of Russia's participation in the UN has been marked by wars and occupation of other sovereign countries and forcefully changing their internationally recognised borders. We note the occupation of Moldova's Transnistria in 1992-1993; wars in Georgia with the subsequent occupation of Abkhazia (1992-1993) and occupation of South Ossetia (2008); two wars in Chechnya (1994-1996 and 1999-2009); the invasion of Syria in 2015-2022; the occupation of Crimea and parts of Donbas in 2014; and the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Using its veto power in the UN Security Council, Russia gets benefits from the ineffectiveness of this



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instrument to counter its own crimes. On August 9, 2008, Russia blocked the adoption of a resolution on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia. On March 15, 2014, Russia also blocked the adoption of a resolution on non-recognition of the referendum in the temporarily occupied Crimea. On April 10, 2018, due to Russia, the UN Security Council failed to support resolution for the investigation of a possible chemical attack in Syria. On February 25, 2022, Russia vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning its criminal actions on the territory of Ukraine. Veto power is in effect held in the hands of a terrorist state.

We also draw your attention to the fact that 31 years ago, by manipulating the UN Charter, Russia usurped the seat of the Soviet Union in the UN Security Council - bypassing the only legitimate procedure, determined by the UN Charter. The current UN Charter does not contain the word "Russian Federation". This phrase is also absent in Article 23 of the Charter, where all the Security Council members are mentioned.

On December 26, 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine officially initiated Russia's exclusion from the UN Security Council. This was because Russia systematically violates the UN Charter, and therefore, legally and morally, has no right to be a privileged member of the group of countries responsible for peace.

The UN Security Council will continue to be an institution which is paralysed by the Russian Federation. Even more disturbing, from the 1st of April 2023, Russia will assume the presidency of the Security Council.

We urge you to relay our concerns and support calls for the Russian Federation to be deprived of the status of a permanent member of the UN Security Council by whatever means possible.

Yours sincerely,

Kateryna Argyrou  
Co-Chair AFUO

Stefan Romaniw OAM  
Co-Chair AFUO