

**Statement by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine  
in connection with the Russian Federation's recognition of independence of illegal  
self-proclaimed entities in the temporarily occupied areas in certain districts of  
Donetsk and Luhansk Regions of Ukraine**

On 21 February 2022, the President of the Russian Federation recognised the independence of illegal self-proclaimed entities in the temporarily occupied areas in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions of Ukraine, and ordered troops of the Russian Federation to advance into the territory of Ukraine.

By making this decision, the Russian Federation has committed another act of aggression and once again blatantly violated the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders as well as a number of multilateral and bilateral international treaties, particularly the United Nations Charter, the Final Act of the Conference On Security and Co-Operation in Europe of 1 August 1975, and the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine Acceding to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 5 December 1994 (the Budapest Memorandum).

The aforementioned decision was approved by the Russian leadership in spite of all the efforts by Ukraine and the international community towards peaceful settlement of the Russia-perpetrated international armed conflict in the territories of certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions of Ukraine.

By approving that decision, the Russian Federation de-facto unilaterally withdrew from the Minsk Agreements to which it was a signatory, and destroyed the relevant negotiation process at the level of the states participating in the Normandy Format as well as within the Trilateral Contact Group for the peaceful settlement of the situation in the temporarily occupied areas in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions of Ukraine.

Both the framework of the peace process and the legislation of Ukraine clearly define the term of the temporarily occupied territories as "certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine" and the boundaries of these parts of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. There are no other formations in the territory of these regions of Ukraine.

Ukraine remains committed to the political and diplomatic path to resolving the international armed conflict.

In the development of its previous Statements on the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

- emphasizes that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as well as the temporarily occupied certain parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain an integral part of the territory of Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation;
- declares the absence of legal consequences of the decision taken by the Russian Federation and calls it to immediately take all necessary measures to repeal its illegal decisions aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as eliminating the consequences of such actions of the Russian Federation;

- calls on foreign states and international organizations not to recognize the independence of illegal self-proclaimed entities in the temporarily occupied territories in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and to refrain from any actions or steps that could be construed as recognizing them;

- notes the fact that the Russian Federation is an aggressor - a party to the conflict and all this time its troops have been and continue to be in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;

- condemns and blames the Russian Federation for the harsh deterioration of the security situation, massive disinformation and propaganda used by the Russian Federation to create a contrived pretext for recognizing illegal self-proclaimed entities in the temporarily occupied territories at the separate regions of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts;

- supports the official request made upon the instruction of the President of Ukraine on the basis of Article 6 of the Budapest Memorandum to the UN Security Council member states with a appeal to hold immediate consultations on urgent action to reduce tensions and practical steps to ensure Ukraine's security;

- supports the initiative of the President of Ukraine to convene an urgent broad meeting of the UN Security Council (Security Summit) with the participation of Ukraine in order to provide it with a real security guarantees and immediate action by the UN Security Council to effectively de-escalate and provide real assistance to Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty within internationally recognized borders;

- calls on the governments and parliaments of foreign states, international organizations and their parliamentary assemblies to strongly condemn this decision of the Russian Federation as it is illegal;

- emphasizes that this decision is part of the long-term systemic efforts of the Russian Federation aimed at undermining Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and destroying its statehood;

- calls for imposing additional tough sectoral, financial and personal sanctions against the Russian Federation and its leadership in order to stop its armed aggression against Ukraine and prevent further escalation of the security situation in Europe, including the freezing of launch of Nord Stream-2, disconnecting the Russian Federation from the international interbank financial system of transfer and payments (SWIFT) and a ban on exports to the Russian Federation of high technologies, in particular those related to the Russian military-industrial complex and the energy sectors;

- calls on foreign governments and parliaments to help strengthen Ukraine's defense capabilities and accelerate the allocation of comprehensive, including defense, assistance, aimed at strengthening Ukraine's ability to respond to the escalation of the security situation by Russian Federation, and support its economy and financial stability.