
Conference on Disarmament

21 September 2023

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Note Verbale dated 5 September 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva transmitting the statement by Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva H.E. Ambassador Yevheniia Filipenko at the Conference on Disarmament thematic debates on New Vision for Disarmament: the disarmament aspects of the Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace, which was held on 8 August 2023

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva transmitting the statement by Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva H.E. Ambassador Yevheniia Filipenko at the Conference on Disarmament thematic debates on New Vision for Disarmament: the disarmament aspects of the Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace, which was held on 8 August 2023.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) that this Statement be issued as an official document (and Working Paper) of the 2023 CD session and included in the Appendix to the Final Report of the CD, as well as uploaded on the Conference's website.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.

Annex

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva H.E. Ambassador Yevheniia Filipenko at the thematic debates on New Vision for Disarmament: the disarmament aspects of the Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace, 8 August 2023, Geneva

Mr. President,

The Delegation of Ukraine appreciates your efforts and welcomes the Germany presidency for your initiative to convene these thematic debates on the New vision on Disarmament: the disarmament aspects of the Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace and would like to share its views and priorities on such looking-forward document.

Distinguished colleagues,

The New Agenda for Peace contains a profound assessment of the current world's international security environment and gives us elements of particular importance for maintaining international peace and stability. We hope that this document will become a crucial contribution to ensuring ultimate success of the Summit of the Future, scheduled for 2024.

The policy brief contains a clear identification of the full-scale armed aggression and invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation as one of the most challenging violations of international law.

We must end Russia's cycle of aggression which started 15 years with the invasion of Georgia and occupation of 20% of its territory.

Fifteen years on, the Kremlin is now repeating the same tactics in Ukraine, with the sole goal of preventing sovereign states from determining their future.

As we discuss New Agenda for Peace, the rescuers are cleaning the debris of a residential building and other premises in the city of Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, following the Russian's missile strike, which killed seven people and wounded at least 88.

The incompatibility of actions of the Russian Federation with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter is the biggest challenge for the United Nations and the international community at large.

As a country that defends the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter on the battlefield, where the future of the United Nations and its global role are essentially decided, Ukraine has proposed the peace initiative – 10 points Peace Formula, as well as further steps towards its implementation, including the holding of the Global Peace Summit. The success of the New Agenda for Peace initiative now largely depends on the meaningful implementation of Ukraine's initiative.

Conflict resolution and peace-making in the event of a full-fledged inter-state war should be put in the focus of the New Agenda for Peace. The New Agenda should provide with clear vision of how to respond to security threats and challenges stemming from armed aggression of one state against another, in order to restore respect to the fundamental principles and norms of international law, including the United Nations Charter.

Referring to the United Nations General Assembly resolution ES-11/6 adopted by the overwhelming majority of 141 United Nations Member States, Ukraine believes that striving for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, consistent with the United Nations Charter, including the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of states, should be considered as a universal approach for laying the foundations for peaceful resolution.

We should avoid any false equivalence between an instigator of war and the legitimate actions of a defending state while defining the context of a conflict. Any attempts to justify

the armed aggression by the existence of the so-called “security concerns” should be rejected. The case of Russia’s armed aggression against Ukraine makes it clear that such invented “security concerns” in reality mean the desire to establish zones of influence and instability and to limit the sovereignty of states.

Ukraine shares the view that The New Agenda for Peace should address the threats and challenges for non-proliferation architecture, drastically eroded by the Russian Federation. It is unacceptable and dangerous that the war has been waged by the nuclear state against the non-nuclear state and that the nuclear state resorts to a nuclear blackmail of the entire international community and to attacks and occupation of nuclear facilities of non-nuclear state as a warfare toolbox.

In this context Ukraine fully shares the views expressed by many states on the necessity of addressing the risks in biosecurity and biosafety domains. We would like to stress the importance of taking effective measures to prevent any state from abusing the BWC and to elaborate viable mechanisms to reject manipulative actions of any state to circumvent the principles of this Convention or undermine global biosecurity.

Our delegation also commends the plans to place a specific focus on investing in prevention and peacebuilding. The New Agenda for Peace should highlight the need to ensure accountability for the crime of aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity as an important part of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Ukraine expects the document to clearly highlight the responsibility of states and other international actors to prosecute those responsible for crimes under international law as well as for other violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law, and to provide an effective remedy and a guarantee of non-recurrence to victims of such violations and crimes with a view of ensuring accountability and justice. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are crucial for our efforts in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. Therefore, we encourage to include the issue of ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as halting violations and ending impunity for them as one of the centrepieces of the New Agenda for Peace.

Efficient measures to prevent conflict from relapsing, including by providing security guaranties to a victim of armed aggression and establishing a system of international safeguards against the repetition of armed aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any Member State must be in the center of our efforts.

In conclusion, Ukraine stands ready to be actively engaged in further discussions on developing New Agenda for Peace at the relevant international fora, including in this body.

I thank you Mr. President.
