

**УКРАЇНА**



**UKRAINE**

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**Statement**

**by His Excellency VIKTOR YANUKOVYCH**

**President of Ukraine**

**at the General Debate of the 67<sup>th</sup> session**

**of the UN General Assembly**

New York, 26 September 2012



**Mr. President,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of Ukraine, I sincerely congratulate dear Mr. Vuk Jeremić on election to the post of the President of the 67<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly.

I wish you every success and fruitful activity at that post.

The theme of this year's debates, settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, is always topical.

This imperative was enshrined in the UN Charter by its founding members, including Ukraine.

I am certain that nowadays the fundamental principle of peaceful settlement of disputes must remain the cornerstone of modern system of international relations.

This is the main mission of our Organization.

This is the immediate duty of every UN member.

**Mr. President,**

These days we watch closely the situation in Syria, which remains extremely alarming. Ukraine shares the deep concern of international community regarding escalation of violence in that state.

We call on all relevant parties to exert maximum efforts to settle the conflict on the basis of respect to the UN Charter and universally recognized principles of international law.

The people of Ukraine have never been and shall never be indifferent to human suffering. We don't distinguish grief into 'our' and 'their'.

Last year, thanks to Ukraine's humanitarian mission to Libya, people of many nationalities, mostly women and children, were evacuated from hostilities.

In this case, we speak not about a single action, but about Ukraine's resolute intention to use its capabilities to protect civilian population in hot spots.

That's why this year, when the situation in Syria aggravated, we immediately evacuated the first group of Ukrainian and Polish citizens who stated their intention to return home.

Let me reassure you that Ukrainian aircraft and ships that may be used for evacuation efforts in hot spots, shall always be at the disposal of anyone needing help, irrespectively of nationality.

Ukraine has approved a decision to provide humanitarian assistance, using UN mechanisms, to Syria's internally displaced persons and refugees.

I am confident that by joint efforts of international community we'll manage to ensure the safety of civilian population in Syria.

I believe in international solidarity in this regard.

Recently we witnessed the tragic attack on US consulate in Libya on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ukraine decisively condemns any acts of violence against diplomatic missions and their personnel.

For many years, Ukraine has actively supported the expansion of preventive diplomacy in international relations, with leading role played by the UN, undoubtedly.

Being guided by such an approach, Ukraine initiated a dialogue on prevention of human rights violations at the UN Human Rights Council, in particular, by initiating a relevant thematic resolution.

Ensuring early conflict prevention was among key elements of the first membership of Ukraine in the UN Security Council as an independent state, which took place in 2000-2001.

We also conduct relevant work in the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

The same goal is among priorities of Ukraine's chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2013.

Generally, during our OSCE chairmanship we intend to make all efforts to strengthen security in our region and consolidate democratic institutions of the Member States. We will also promote the improvement of OSCE efficiency as a regional organization in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

We will underscore the need for a new impetus to the resolution of protracted conflicts in Europe and addressing new threats and challenges to security, in particular, energy security.

We strive to increase OSCE efficiency in early conflict prevention.

The Ukrainian chairmanship will actively promote the deepening of international cooperation and dialogue to maintain stability, resolve crisis situations and ensure post-conflict reconstruction.

We will pay special attention to negotiations on Transnistria conflict, in the settlement of which Ukraine has actively participated already for many years.

We will promote in every manner possible the process of Nagorno-Karabakh settlement, as well as Geneva Discussions on Security and Stability in Caucasus.

I'd like to stress that Ukraine, as a non-block state, cannot but be concerned with the erosion of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

We consider that international legal document a cornerstone of stability in the continent; therefore, States Parties should make every effort to ensure its full-fledged and efficient application.

Therefore, during its OSCE chairmanship, Ukraine intends to pay special attention to the resolution of crisis around that Treaty.

Peaceful settlement and conflict prevention will become the foundation of Ukraine's activity in case of election to UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2016-2017.

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the beginning of this year, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made public a five-year Action Agenda of the Organization.

We fully support the priorities identified in the Agenda, and consider them a roadmap of UN activities for the near future.

These days, we experience a period of unprecedented changes. Unfortunately, especially in view of world crisis, there are global tendencies of stagnation of economic development, growing poverty and social inequality, increasing instability in some states and regions.

Obviously, efficient counteraction to these threats is possible only by means of joining efforts of the world community.

In this regard, we consider it especially advisable to increase the efficiency of international cooperation among security and law enforcement agencies, develop best practices of facing new challenges and threats, and introduce reliable confidence-building measures.

It should be noted that this year's United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development left quite a number of open issues, with environmental and socioeconomic aspects of modern life being closely interconnected. However, we view the Rio+20 Conference as an important milestone in the development of international cooperation under UN auspices in the said sphere.

The final document of the Conference has proved the ability of countries of different political and economic weights to reach compromise even in today's difficult times.

We support the initiated complex approach to sustainable energy for all, sustainable consumption and production, elimination of hunger, and ensuring urban development.

Ukraine welcomes the decision of the Conference to consolidate the UN Environmental Program aimed at system-based and complex management of the whole spectrum of environment-related problems.

We highly appreciate the establishment of a high-level political forum on sustainable development and the creation of an intergovernmental working group that will chart post-2015 sustainable development goals.

This theme is of special interest for Ukraine, as demonstrated by the National voluntary presentation of Ukraine's achievements in the sphere of the Millennium Development Goals, which took place at UN Economic and Social Council this July.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you that participation in UN sustainable development efforts will remain Ukraine's unchanging priority.

The global man-caused climate change represents a threat of planetary scale.

Therefore, we consider counteraction to this challenge a priority task for the whole humankind.

Let me note that Ukraine has voluntarily acceded to Period Two of Kyoto Protocol, undertaking to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by twenty percent by 2020.

Bearing that in mind, Ukraine will also promote the discussion of environmental impact of energy-related manmade activity, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources in the framework of its future OSCE Chairmanship.

**Dear Colleagues,**

Turning to international security problems, I'd like to stress that Ukraine is deeply committed to the cause of creation of a more secure and protected world.

This commitment belongs to Ukrainians' national conscience, reflecting scourges of wars, totalitarianism and artificial famines, as well as the consequences of Chornobyl disaster, the largest manmade disaster in human history.

Therefore, Ukraine's aspirations to save the world from tragedies similar to those experienced by us stem from the very hearts of Ukrainians.

For over two decades of its independence, Ukraine has been a steadfast supporter of global nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

We have voluntarily renounced the third-largest nuclear arsenal in the world; we were true to our word and completed the removal of last stocks of highly-enriched uranium from our country this year.

I consider these important steps, as well as the Kyiv Summit on the Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy, held last year, as worthy of following.

In this very context I view the Joint Declaration by Ukraine, Mexico and Chile – countries that made special efforts to neutralize the risks of use of highly enriched uranium.

The Declaration remains open for signing.

Unfortunately, the ambitious goal of gradual complete liquidation of nuclear weapons remains unachieved.

In this regard, we insist that security guarantees for states that renounced their nuclear stockpiles and made other strategic concessions should be reflected in internationally binding legal instruments.

This year Ukraine marked the outstanding twentieth anniversary of its participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

I am truly proud of contribution of sons and daughters of Ukraine – servicemen, law enforcement officers and civilian personnel – who have been serving and continue to serve the noble ideals of peace under UN flag.

During these years, over 34,000 Ukrainians performed noble peacekeeping missions in over twenty international operations under UN mandate, from Guatemala to Timor-Leste, from Croatia to Mozambique.

The experience gained gives Ukraine the right to speak about achievements and advantages, as well as about problematic issues of modern UN peacekeeping operations.

The latter include threatening situation with regard to air mobility and legal lacunas in investigations of crimes committed against the Blue Helmets.

I count on continued support of Ukraine's initiatives aimed at resolving the current problems facing UN peacekeeping.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Ukraine welcomes the successful completion of the High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law, which took place here in New York on 24 September.

During that event, the Ukrainian side declared political obligations that we shall fulfill consistently.

We are certain that international efforts to ensure the rule of law should remain centered around the United Nations Organization.

At the same time, relevant international organizations should keep playing important role in that sphere.

For Ukraine, such an organization is the Council of Europe, and its Venice Commission, in particular; our close cooperation with which assists us in consistent reforms to ensure the rule of law and thereby realize our aspirations of European integration.

This process is actively promoted by the Constitutional Assembly – a special political institution created in Ukraine to find a nationwide consensus on the provisions of the Basic Law.

In the course of constitutional development, we study and will take into account the best practices from other countries.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am deeply confident that global advances in each of the key areas I mentioned are impossible without more efficient, capable and updated to the realities of the 21st century United Nations.

The key to this is to deepen UN reform, primarily, the reform of the Security Council.

Ukraine's position is well-known: we are ready to discuss all progressive concepts of the Security Council reform capable of achieving maximum consent among UN Member States.

**Mr. President,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Only the United Nations Organization is up to the task of consolidating humanity to face the modern challenges.

Consolidated will of all 193 Member States represents overwhelming force capable of coping with most complicated global crises.

We must strengthen and preserve our unity.

I believe that the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly will be conducive to this noble goal.

Thank you for attention.