



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

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**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

Emergency Special Session

RU veto/sham referenda

United Nations General Assembly

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New York**

Dear Mr. President,

Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the European Union and wishes to add some remarks in its national capacity.

The Slovak Republic unequivocally condemns the attempted illegal annexation of further territories of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

We are outraged that, despite calls from the majority of the world's states and the international community, the Russian Federation has taken another step in stark contradiction to the basic democratic principles and constitutional order of Ukraine.

The Russian Federation, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, besides abusing its veto right in the Security Council, once again flagrantly violated international law, including the UN Charter, in particular the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of states.

The Slovak Republic recognises Ukraine as an independent, sovereign state with unquestionable territorial integrity. All acts associated with the forcible acquisition of Ukrainian territory by the Russian Federation are null, void and illegitimate. The so-called referenda in the occupied regions took place during an active armed conflict, in areas under Russian occupation, and cannot be called a true expression of the will of the people. Slovakia will never recognize these territories as anything but a part of Ukraine.

We will continue to provide multi-faceted support to Ukraine in its just struggle to preserve its statehood, sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognised borders.

The pre-orchestrated sham referenda and subsequent attempted illegal annexation of parts of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions, additional to previous attempted illegal annexation of Crimea, represent a deliberate escalation by the Russian Federation, which is part of its ongoing military aggression against Ukraine.

We therefore reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to cease its military activities in Ukraine and immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its troops, military equipment and occupation administration structures from Ukrainian territory.

All those who participated in the preparation and implementation of the attempted illegal annexation of further parts of Ukrainian territory to the Russian Federation must be held accountable for their actions. This includes all the crimes committed and now being documented in Ukraine.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to once again condemn the Russian propaganda and related distortion of facts and promotion of alternative reality, which the Russian Federation also expressed today. Slovakia totally rejects this approach and finds it highly deplorable.

To conclude, Mr. President, I would like to appeal to each and every delegation in this room to vote in favour of the presented draft resolution. This time it is attempted illegal annexation of part of Ukraine by Russia, next time it might be annexation of your territory by any of your neighbours with military prevalence. International community must send a clear signal that such behaviour cannot and will not be tolerated. Exactly for this reason, this is not a vote between Ukraine or Russia, this is a vote between the respect of core principles of International Law and the UN Charter or complete anarchy and arbitrariness, between the power of law or the power of force.

Thank you for your attention.