

United Nations

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Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8409th meeting
Monday, 26 November 2018, 11 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Wu Haitao (China)

Members:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Adom
Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Esono Mbengono
Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
France	Mrs. Gueguen
Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
Kuwait	Mr. Almunayekh
Netherlands	Mrs. Gregoire Van Haaren
Peru	Mr. Tenya
Poland	Mr. Lewicki
Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
Sweden	Ms. Schoulgin Nyoni
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Allen
United States of America	Mrs. Haley

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

Violation of the borders of the Russian Federation

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The representative of the United States has asked for the floor.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): I am making this statement on behalf of the United States, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

We stand united in opposing Russia's attempt to discuss yesterday's serious escalation in the Kerch Strait under an agenda item entitled "Violation of the borders of the Russian Federation". We strongly support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters. We want to express our deep concern about the incident, which represents a dangerous escalation and violation of international law. We look forward to discussing Russia's provocation under the appropriate agenda item. We therefore urge all Council members to vote against the adoption of the agenda as proposed by Russia.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The representative of the Russian Federation has asked for the floor.

Mr. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): In calling for this extraordinary meeting of the Security Council, Russia bases its position on the Council's provisional rules of procedure, in which rule 2 clearly states that the President shall call a meeting of the Security Council at the request of any member of the Council at any time to consider any issue. It is crucial that we understand that the Ukrainian delegation's counter-demand that we initiate a separate meeting under a different agenda item is nothing but an attempt to avoid responsibility for undermining international security. The agenda item proposed by Ukraine is inappropriate. I would like to ask if anyone has even read the letter of the Ukrainian Permanent Representative in question. The situation described in it refers us to events of four years ago and has nothing to do with what happened in the region yesterday.

What did happen on 25 November was that the Kyiv regime made a direct threat to international peace and security by ordering the Ukrainian Naval Forces to carry out an aggressive act of provocation with regard to the Russian Federation's State border, violating key

provisions not only of international maritime law but also of common law, including the Charter of the United Nations, provisions that require that all States respect other States' sovereignty. The fact that this violation occurred — and moreover through manoeuvring in a narrow strait, a fairly dangerous method — could and did create risks to the normal movement of vessels in those waters. Needless to say, such banditry had to be stopped, and the international community has to understand where Kyiv's actions are leading.

We urge our partners on the Security Council not to take on any responsibility for the Ukrainian authorities' dangerous behaviour. If this forum continues to be used to cover for the Ukrainian regime's military provocations and to blame Russia for exercising its right to defend its borders, the Council's authority will suffer irreparable damage.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In view of the request and comments made by members of the Security Council, I intend to put the provisional agenda to the vote.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the provisional agenda for today's meeting. I shall put the provisional agenda to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation

Against:

France, Kuwait, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Peru

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The provisional agenda received 4 votes in favour, 7 votes against and 4 abstentions. The provisional agenda has not been adopted, having failed to obtain the required number of votes.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mr. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We regret the result of the vote. However, I would like to emphasize that no one can prevent Russia, as a permanent member of the Security Council, from