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**Statement by Ms. Oksana Zolotarova,  
Acting Director-General of the Directorate General for International Law,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine  
on the Agenda item 82  
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its Seventieth  
session  
(October 4, 2019)**



Our recent experience has confirmed the damage that can be done when an occupying power fails to give proper weight to environmental considerations in its administration of occupied territory. Our own monitoring, and that of the Organization for Co-operation and Security in Europe, has revealed the extent to which environmental protection has been weakened in Crimea and Donbas. Environmentally hazardous infrastructure has been damaged or disrupted, and protected natural areas degraded, even as environmental governance has been weakened. We have seen signs of severe environmental degradation in Crimea, resulting from environmental mismanagement of both natural and agricultural areas.

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In this regard, we are looking forward to the second report next year, in particular with emphasis on questions related to the responsibility and liability for environmental harm in relation to armed conflicts.

**I thank you.**