

dear mr chairman dear heads of state and governments ladies and gentlemen it's time to wake up this is an appeal made by the un secretary general the honourable mr gutierrez to world leaders on the eve of the general assembly to all of us for me this appeal is very special for me each night before a general assembly has been a sleepless one back in 2019 i was nervous before my first speech 2020 was altogether a sleepless year for the whole world because of covid 19. and last night is something that i would like to tell you about in greater detail three in the morning i'm getting dozens of phone calls the first aid to the president of ukraine has been attacked twelve shots fired three of those hit the driver this is the price of changes in the country this is the price of reform fortunately sergey survived fortunately the driver's life is now out of danger but this speech is not going to be an ordinary speech typical of un speeches but i hope it will be instructive for all of you it's time to wake up without flattery or exaggeration i can state the following ukraine did this a long time ago ever since she hasn't slept she hasn't slept when surviving the holodomor famine she was awake when the whole world survived the two world wars the holocaust which claimed a hundred million lives this was the price for mankind to learn the hard way that all peoples and all nations are equal and all conflicts must be resolved through dialogue only and not with tanks it is with this belief back in 1945 ukraine became one of the founding nations of the u.n today they i'm quite certain would have been shocked to see in the title of this general assembly the words secure the rights of all peoples i'm sure they they would have said what have you been doing these past seven to six years the answer came from covid 19 we have been playing equality we have been playing unity where one thing is to share objectives and quite another is to share vaccines vaccines that give life it transpired that the provisions about equality just as in an uh advertisement there is a footnote in fine print um stating the following we are all people we are all in one boat but access to life boats is given first to first class passengers ukraine was not waiting for others to help she has been helping others without awaiting gratitude we dispatched to italy our medics we dispatched uh ppe's ukraine has been helping everyone who's needed our help when the world forgot that the pandemic was not here for good and all nations would one day reassemble right here but how would they look each other in the eye ukraine has nothing to be ashamed of she has the right to state we want to reanimate the u.n yes we do to start we need to reanimate its charter it is not a set of recommendations for voluntary compliance you will not find the words each shall fend for themselves then the world would not have to admit that it has failed a test of and look away in shame marking the 20th anniversary of the durban declaration to liquidate all forms of racial discrimination who could have imagined that one day medicines would become an instrument of discrimination discrimination in the context of ongoing discussions about a global food crisis are we one day going to divide bread and water in the same manner are we waking up i would like to believe that covid 19 has not been finally defeated a global vaccination plan remains on our agenda in addition to that guarantees that there would not be any new viruses in the world are as quote unquote strong as the guarantees of security extended under the budapest memorandum time to wake up quite frankly ukraine never slept it's actually hard to do to the sound of explosions and gunfire heard in the occupied region of the donbass for eight years in a row back in 2019 standing on this podium i said that the warring in ukraine had claimed 13 000 lives 30 000 people wounded can you imagine a million and a half have had to flee their homes with every passing year those numbers are again repeated here at the u.n with an adjustment that they keep growing with every passing year i spoke about this back in 2020 and i'm reiterating the same now in 2021 now uh it's already nearly 15 000 lives lost this is the price of freedom this is the price of independence maybe somewhere in central park or madison square gardens those gun shots are not heard as loudly as in the old industrial heartland or along the sweet ladar bulge we need to reanimate the u.n maybe the un should start moving to become more mobile more agile maybe it's time we met there in those places where you can really hear we can you can really see those global problems there are thousands of hot spots in the world ukraine is prepared to attend a u.n meeting at any of those hot spots in order to re-animate the un we need the truth for everyone who has influence to genuinely support the peacekeeping efforts of the international community today if that happened we would not have explosions in afghanistan and gunfire would not terrorize the peaceful civilian population this is a quote from a statement by the first president of independent ukraine leonid kravchuk the first president of our nation pronounced here from this podium 30 years ago during the 46th general assembly i only wish they had become less relevant and that we would not have taken 30 years to launch our rescue operation uh to evacuate uh peaceful uh population from kabul it took us only one day our military evacuated 700 individuals ukrainian citizens and other nationals members of uh rights human rights protection organizations journalists from global mail wall street journal usa today stars and stripes those are men and women and children and elderly people from various backgrounds and nationalities and faiths this is genuine commitment to the fundamental principles of the un the participation of 46 nations and international organizations in the first inaugural summit of the crimean platform against the occupation of crimea that is genuine commitment to the un fundamental principles and i would like to extend my appreciation to each and every one of those countries and the fact that the u.n ignored this forum for addressing uh a global challenge uh pertaining to national law and occupation these are some new principles not endorsed by anyone if we are here to reanimate the u.n let us remember we not have any uh chosen ones here untouchables here in this forum the un is 193 equal nations and i invite all those nations to join the declaration of the crimean platform to condemn the occupation and to demonstrate that you are against changing borders by force in the world and it's not i'm not being ironic i'm not trolling anyone this format will always remain open for russia and i'm ready to explain why because the world in this world no one feels secure anymore let me reiterate no one feels secure anymore in this world and no one can hide

behind the national law as a brick wall that could lead to uh the entire architecture of international relations imploding then we will end up with no rules only the rule of brutal force this will be a world where aggregatism will replace collective engagement a world with more dictatorship and less equality of rights less genuine democracy and freedom what is national sovereignty in the first place we are talking about freedom it is the choice to uh choose your own destiny for an individual for a people for a nation i've been just speaking in in russian because i i've been quoting from a state from a statement by president putin and at the munich security conference in 2007 and then during the 2015 general assembly don't these words ring true unfortunately we know what moscow's answer is in early september the first uh vice chair of the medjlist of the crimean tatar people was unlawfully detained in crimea mr nariman the russian authorities are charging this political scientist journalist tv host and history professor with an an attempted uh explosion of a segment of a gas pipeline this is the price of freedom of speech this is the price of fighting for somebody's rights for human rights i very much count on support from the international community in each and every one of you and securing his release and the release of some 450 ukrainians who are being unlawfully detained in the temporarily occupied territories of ukraine by the russian federation i call on you to support uh updated resolutions uh regarding the situation around human rights and the occupied crimea and the militarization of our occupied peninsula which will be submitted for review of this general assembly towards the end of the year we uh would like to express our appreciation for including the uh item this to discuss the situation in the temporary occupied territories of ukraine as an item of the agenda of this general assembly but how could those territories crimea and the dondas being occupied ever disappear from this important agenda this is evident not only to us i would like to thank all those nations who have who uh mentioned ukraine during their speeches um and it is and others and they are not shying away from identifying ukraine as a as a friend as a partner they they can call a spade a spade an occupation they call an occupational aggression they call an aggression without fear that somebody could stock out of this whole as a demonstration we shouldn't do this this is a forum for dialogue this will certainly not make ukraine happy what could make ukraine happy if somebody stormed out of our territory of our land beyond our borders back in 1945 crimea hosted the yalta conference where the foundations of world peace will aid and where the decision was made to convene the first conference to create to create the united nations organizations both yalta and crimea have been occupied for eight years running how are we supposed to reanimate the un if the very cradle the place where the idea of the u.n was born remains occupied by a permanent member of the u.n security council the president of the 76 general assembly spoke at length about climate change about protecting the environment about protecting um nature on this planet in this context crimea needs extensive uh attention from the u.n uh this unique ecosystem has been uh converted into a military base instead of fauna and flora we have a navy and soldiers but in the souls of of crimeans the biggest problem is not global warming it is global devastation we must acknowledge the world is not coping with this big pile of problems simply doesn't have the time uan has been raising uh very acute concerns and it never has the time to resolve them as uh new come up and each time it's as if we were voting to uh award some sort of a global misfortune of the year prize and in a year's time everyone will have forgotten all about it because the new will come along each general assembly the world simply is throwing all those misfortunes into a big bag and it's now already ripping of the seams and if you look deep in in that back there's starvation poverty illiteracy lack of access to drinking water clean air occupations in order to resolve these challenges we never seem to have the time and most important we never seem to have the courage because we are not acting as leaders we are acting as politicians who are afraid that one day mankind will ask them questions about all this and just simply securing escape routes look we never promised you anything we never promised to overcome starvation we only committed to doing our best to eradicate it we we never promised to eliminate climate change we promised to use all our efforts to eliminate climate change if we were to count all these strongly committed and uh reiterating our common interests and dedication and reach arrangements and agreements to strengthen uh cooperation how much time and paper and energy has been wasted are we really serious about reanimating the u.n let's be frank and honest when talking to one another then we will not be referring to the this general assembly as a debate because this is not the debate a debate is a live dialogue this is an active argument with multiple parties participate an opportunity to ask direct questions such as in the example of uh hundreds of thousands of ukrainians being issued with russian partners by another nation does not that does that not serve as proof and of international crime does that not prove as impunity and contempt of international law and russia is has even stated that uh itself openly and and is forcing our uh citizens to take part in in elections uh to elect the russian parliament if the u.n does not respond to that adequately what is it in aid of what is it going to prove is it too late to reanimate the the u.n i beg to differ i think it is not too late it is we the yen should support those who wish to uh make this world a better place ukraine has come up with a series of initiatives platforms and summits let let me name one the crimean platform it is supposed to operate under the auspices of the u.n and if each nation has um a vibrant forum endorsed by the u.n to operate 24x7 to address those concerns this will be genuine reanimation of the u.n because this will bring back faith in the u.n for the average citizen ladies and gentlemen i quite appreciate that the u.n may often come under criticism but we're actually criticizing ourselves the un is not this building it is leaders it is leaders who created the un 76 years ago could they have foreseen could they have accounted for every eventuality certainly not could they have imagined that the right of veto as a symbol uh allowing one nation to cast a vote for everyone else that it was going to erode into an instrument of black male on the part of one nation no is this a lost cause certainly not all of us and the u.n must regain faith in ourselves the u.n has been hearing all this criticism and accusations

that it is not capable of delivering and it's the worst of it that the u.n may have become another league of nation the u.n is like a retired superhero who's long forgotten how great they once were they feel that they are a burden they are weak they're infirm like an old person who nobody needs whose life has been wasted what why not remember something how back in 1981 over one billion people under u.n leadership gained access to drinking water for the first time who explore explain to that uh wild world that each human had rights and they must be defended who produced the first document that enshrined those rights for the first time who is providing food to 90 million people in 83 countries all over the world who has spearheaded eradicating such shameful phenomenon as apartheid whose blue helmets have been sustaining peace in dozens of countries who's created unesco that's protecting the vatican versailles acropolis and 1154 unique world heritage sites who's created unicef that is protecting children in over 190 countries of the world that is our most valuable asset and that's why it will never be banal or outdated to call for unity for their sake what say you excellence is uh country leaders let us show our resolve let us show that we are truly committed to strengthening our cooperation let's show it and then let's go out and do it even without resolutions of declarations or realigning positions let's just get it done as humans as nations as united nations those that have made this important choice in order to make a difference it's either that or these seats will continue being vacant that is the price of that choice thank you for your attention