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The Secretariat follows the guidance provided by the Organization's political organs. It treats as the government of the State concerned the authorities that the political organs treat as being its government; and it does not treat as the government those actors that the political organs treat as not being the government.

Where certain actors hold effective power, but the UN's political organs treat them





Now, I would like to refer to the activities of the Office of Legal Affairs related to the advice provided to the Secretary-General, and all UN system entities, on a number of issues arising out of the Russian military offensive in Ukraine.

They have ranged from issues of privileges and immunities — such as the immunity of UN officials from national service obligations — to questions regarding the obligations owed by the parties to the conflict to ensure the safety and security of UN personnel.

Issues of procedure have been addressed—such as the application of Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Charter when a meeting of the General Assembly opens to consider a matter before the Security Council has met to exercise its Charter functions in respect of it.

We have also had to advise on questions regarding the implementation of the decisions of intergovernmental bodies — such as the General Assembly's resolution suspending the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council or the recent General Assembly resolution on the territorial integrity of Ukraine adopted on 12 October, at its resumed Eleventh Emergency Special Session.







note in this regard the relevance of the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations — the Friendly Relations Declaration —

