



3 March 2014 - Today, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for “the full respect for and preservation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine”.

The Secretary-General, who has urged the Russian Federation to refrain from acts and rhetoric that could further escalate the situation, today met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva to discuss the situation.

The Secretary-General expresses grave concern over the further deterioration of the [situation](#) . Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson is therefore [dispatched to Kiev](#) to get an understanding of the situation on the ground and subsequently brief the Secretary-General on the next steps the UN could take to support de-escalation.

“At this crucial moment it is important to recall the mission of this Organization to always search for peaceful settlements of disputes. This is the essence of the UN Charter and should serve as our primary guide in this serious situation”, the Deputy Secretary-General underscored in an official [statement](#).

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UN Charter: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

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