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UKRAINE–AUSTRALIA: COOPERATION BASED ON VALUES

The dynamics of relations between Ukraine and Australia is often determined by pivotal world events and a number of domestic political factors affecting both countries. Nevertheless, the position of official Canberra regarding the issue of maintaining Ukraine's territorial integrity, the prolongation of the sanction regime for the Russian Federation and the continuation of unprecedented cooperation within the framework of international organizations' activity is firm. The country's authorities are convinced that the issue of supporting Ukraine is for Australia a fundamental prerequisite for maintaining the present world order (that China is attempting to disrupt in the region) and the support of the United States' in its position as a main ally is equally important.

Australia traditionally makes a point of settling disputable issues in a peaceful way through valid international legal mechanisms, the country adheres to the fulfilment of the Minsk-2 agreements in the Donbas region and encourages Ukraine to apply all available international legal means in order to restore and protect its sovereign right to retrieve Crimea to its territory. Sanctions imposed by Australia against the Russian Federation in September 2017 were expanded and prolonged for three more years or "until Russia fully fulfils its obligations under the Minsk-2". This proves that Australia is committed to a long-term process of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict settlement and is therefore ready to preserve the regime of restrictive measures.

Australia has entirely discontinued its activities in the "Crimean" direction – its vessels do not enter Crimea, business representatives do not work with Russian (Crimean) enterprises, citizens are not recommended to visit the peninsula, the elections conducted there are not recognized and observers are not assigned to the peninsula. No contacts with official representatives of Russian Crimea were recorded to be established whatsoever.

Australia has supported all international initiatives of Ukraine as to the human rights' protection in Crimea (it was co-author of the UN General Assembly resolution of the same name); publicly recognized the fact that Ukraine closed down ports its in Crimea and appealed to the IMO member states not to recognize claims of the Russian Federation to implement the IMO conventions and to take control of this region, etc.



Візит у Нью-Йорк Міністра закордонних справ Джулії Бішоп, 29 липня 2015 року. Міністр Джулія Бішоп і представники Малайзії, Бельгії, України й Нідерландів, а також члени Спільної слідчої групи Ради Міністрів з розслідування збиття літака рейсу МН-17 малайзійських авіаліній зустрілися з генеральним секретарем ООН Пан Гі Муном у штаб-квартирі ООН. © Фото Тревора Колленса

Visit to New York by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop, 29 July 2015. Minister Julie Bishop and representatives of Malaysia, Belgium, Ukraine, and the Netherlands, members of the Joint Investigative Team (JIT) Minister's Caucus into the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH-17 meet with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at UN Headquarters. © Photo by Trevor Collens

As for the Donbas direction, Australia officially recognizes the conflict as a foreign invasion, not a civil war.

The Foreign Policy White Paper of Australia for 2017, which reflects the foreign policy strategy of the country for the next 10 years, states that given the role of Russia on the international scene, its policy affects Australia both in a direct and indirect way. In this regard, despite Australia's continued cooperation with Russia and other states within the framework of the East Asia Summit that is "the major regional forum in the field of politics and security", along with other international partners the country will oppose Russian policy in cases, when it threatens global security. Notably Australia remains resolute in the case of investigating the shoot-down of the MN-17 flight and condemns the annexation of Crimea and intrusion into eastern Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

The case of investigating the MN-17 tragedy is of special importance for Australia, since 38 Australian citizens died because of this disaster. After the latest results of the investigation were announced on May 24, 2018, Malcolm Turn-



Співробітники Посольства України в Австралії вітають учасників змагань «Ігри нескорених» у Сідней. 22.10.2018

Employees of the Embassy of Ukraine in Australia congratulate participants of the Invictus Games in Sydney. 22.10.2018

bull, Prime Minister of Australia, Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, and Christian Porter Attorney-General, have reproached Russia that it must take blame for the crash of MN-17 aircraft. Australia together with the Netherlands was the first to officially raise charges against Russia and demanded the provision of compensation to the victims' relatives.

Likewise, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia accused Russia of running a campaign of “distorting information and propaganda” that promotes various “insane theories” designed to suspend the investigation.

As a matter of fact, it is believed in Australia that the Russian missile was purposely brought to Ukraine and was “deployed to shoot down civilian aircrafts”. Due to this common opinion, the cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the activities of the MN-17 Investigation Team is comprehensive and fruitful.

The fundamental faculties of bilateral relations are the renewal of activities of the powerful Australia-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Australian Parliament; the arrangement of the first ever visit of the President of the Australian Senate to Ukraine; the contribution to raising the level of the diplomatic mission of Australia to Ukraine at an ambassadorial level; opening of the

Honorary Consulate of Ukraine in Sydney; the unprecedented interaction regarding the issue of investigating the disaster of the MN-17 flight at the bilateral level and in the context of international procedures; passing by the Senate of Australia a statement on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932–1933 in Ukraine as well as the establishment of new fields of cooperation.

Despite the geographical remoteness, the export of services has to some extent increased. The creation of the Australia's own space agency, heightened interest in cybersecurity, energy cooperation, interactions with the Antarctic region and other areas open up new opportunities for Ukraine.

Economic cooperation is largely related to the successful fulfilment of the Agreement between the Cabinet

of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of Australia on cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which enables to make Australia one of Ukraine's major partners in diversifying energy resources.

Particular consideration should be given to the activity of the Ukrainian community of Australia in its efforts to promote interests of Ukraine in Australia. In this regard, Australian Ukrainians represented by the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) always support Ukraine's foreign policy initiatives, strengthen its positive image, influence on decisions of the Australian government regarding Ukraine, expand Ukraine's informational presence in Australia, launch and develop Ukrainian educational and cultural programs in Australia. On behalf of the AFUO, over 60 appeals to the government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Australia have been prepared and made. Thanks to the financial assistance of the community, nearly 50 activities were conducted in raising awareness about Ukraine, shedding light on what is happening there as well as additional measures on supporting reforms in Ukraine and promoting Ukrainian culture and traditions.

Although Ukraine and Australia are located on different continents, they share common values, which make a considerable difference in times of great global disturbance.



Свято вишиванки в Національній галереї Канберри

Vyshyvanka Festival at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra

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СВЯТКУВАННЯ 208-ї РІЧНИЦІ ТРАВНЕВОЇ РЕВОЛЮЦІЇ

2018 рік є для нашої країни особливим. У червні 1993 року посольство Аргентини в Києві вперше відчинило свої двері. Отже, ми цього річ святкуємо двадцять п'яту річницю відкриття нашого представництва в чудовій, гостинній Україні. Однак 2018 рік є для нас важливим не тільки тому, а й через суттєвий поступ, якого ми досягли в наших двосторонніх відносинах. Сьогодні можна констатувати, що вони є зрілими та взаємовигідними, сповненими взаємної поваги та розуміння. Наші взаємини мають подальшу перспективу зміцнення та розвитку.

Сучасний бурхливий політичний діалог, свідками якого є наші народи, зміцнив традиційно дружні двосторонні відносини. Маючи нагоду, хочу коротко відзначити деякі важливі віхи цього процесу.

21 вересня 2017 року на 72-й сесії Генеральної Асамблеї Організації Об'єднаних Націй в Нью-Йорку відбулася зустріч Міністра закордонних справ Аргентини Хорхе Форі та Міністра закордонних справ України Павла Клімкіна. На цій зустрічі міністри обговорили можливість візиту Президента України Петра Порошенка до Аргентини у 2018 році і висловили зацікавленість у розширенні та диверсифікації двосторонньої торгівлі, вивченні можливостей співпраці у галузі космічної діяльності.

Крім того, у квітні цього року співиголова Депутатської групи дружби з Аргентиною Верховної Ради України Віктор Романюк разом з депутатом Тарасом Кременем перебували з візитом у Буенос-Айресі, де вони зустрілися з головою Парламентської групи дружби Україна–Аргентина Хорхе Рікардо Енрікесом та іншими членами групи, на якій розглянули форми поглиблення та активізації співпраці, а також участь у 140-й Генеральній Асамблеї з міжпарламентських зв'язків, яка відбудеться 2019 року в Буенос-Айресі.