The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the Note Verbale of 11 January 2017 regarding the Human Rights Council Resolution 20/2 “Conscientious objection to military service”, has the honour to transfer the relevant information of the Government of Ukraine to be included in the report in compliance with the request made in the above mentioned Resolution.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Annex: as stated

Geneva, February 21, 2017

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Geneva
Information of the Government of Ukraine to be included
in the report in compliance with the Human Rights Council
Resolution 20/2 “Conscientious objection to military service”

According to the Law of Ukraine "On military duty and military service" citizens of Ukraine have the right to replace the performance of military duty by alternative (non-military) service in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine "On alternative (non-military) service".

According to article 1 of the Law "On alternative (non-military) service" (hereinafter - the Law), alternative service is a service that substitutes performance of the compulsory military service and is aimed at fulfilling the duty to society.

The term of alternative service shall be 1.5 times longer compared to the respective term of military service set for soldiers and sergeants who perform compulsory military service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military units established under the laws of Ukraine. For those who have higher education with specialist or master’s degrees, the term of alternative service shall be 1.5 times longer compared to the respective term of military service set for individuals who have a corresponding education and qualification level.

Citizens perform alternative military service at enterprises, institutions and organizations that are state- or municipal-owned or with the preferential share in their statutory fund in state municipal property, and which are dealing primarily with the social protection of the population, health, environmental protection, construction, housing and agriculture, as well as in the patronage service in the organizations of the Red Cross Society of Ukraine.

According to the Law citizens of Ukraine have the right to alternative military service if the performance of their military duties is contrary to their religious beliefs and if they belong to religious organizations acting under the laws of Ukraine whose doctrine prohibits the use of weapons.

The procedure of recruitment of citizens to perform alternative (non-military) service is defined by the Regulation on the alternative (non-military) service, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine № 2066 of November 10, 1999.

In order to be recruited into alternative service a citizen after being taken into the military account, but not later than two calendar months before the statutory period of recruitment into compulsory military service, submits personally a written application to the relevant structural unit of the local administration in the place of his/her residence. The decision of the local administration on a citizen’s recruitment into alternative service or a rejection of such recruitment within five calendar days shall be issued to the applicant and sent to the military commissariat where a citizen is on the military account. A recruitment commission shall take an appropriate decision about which a military commissariat notifies the relevant structural unit of the local administration.

During a declared period of recruitment into compulsory military service, with due regard to the decision of a recruitment commission and availability of jobs in enterprises, institutions and organizations defined by relevant structural unit of the local administration, as well as in the patronage service of the organizations of the Red Cross Society of Ukraine, the relevant structural unit of the local administration takes a decision on the specific location for performing alternative service by an individual.
The place of alternative service is mainly defined within the settlement at the place of residence or in the area where this individual has an everyday opportunity to commute to his/her place of residence.

Under the current legislation the issues related to alternative service are assigned to the relevant departments of local state administrations. According to article 7 of the Law of Ukraine "On alternative (non-military) service" the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and local administrations may form relevant subsidiary bodies in order to address alternative service issues.