

## STATEMENT OF THE SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

### **Reaffirming solidarity with the Ukrainian people in their heroic struggle for their nation's survival, honouring those who have fallen in war, and pledging unwavering support for Ukraine until victory is secured**

The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia,

**Recognising** that on 24 February 2025, three years will have passed since Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, and recalling that Russia's aggression began as early as February 2014, when it launched unlawful military activities on Ukrainian territory to illegally alter the borders of a free and sovereign state, ultimately occupying parts of eastern Ukraine and annexing the Crimean Peninsula;

**Reaffirming** its unequivocal condemnation of Russia's unprovoked military aggression and persistent violations of international law and human rights in Ukraine, including systematic attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure;

**Noting** that the aggression against Ukraine is not an isolated war but a global threat to world peace and stability, with Russia carrying out its aggression with military, economic, and other forms of support from third countries such as Belarus, Iran, and North Korea, while also relying on its partnership with China;

**Expresses** solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, who tirelessly demonstrate extraordinary courage and resilience in the face of continuous threats and attacks, **honours** Ukraine's defenders and citizens for their bravery and heroism, and **commemorates** all victims of Russian aggression, including Latvian volunteers who gave their lives in the fight against the occupiers—Vitālijs Smirnovs, who fell on 1 October 2023, and Edgars Platonovs, who fell on 25 December 2024;

**Affirms** that Latvia unwaveringly supports Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and **emphasises** that Russia's temporarily occupied and unlawfully annexed Ukrainian territories—namely, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol, as well as parts of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia regions—rightfully belong to the sovereign and indivisible state of Ukraine;

**Reiterates** that Latvia steadfastly supports Ukraine's Peace Initiative and the initiation of negotiations in accordance with Ukraine's conditions and timeline, while **emphasising** that peace talks can only take place with Ukraine's full participation;

**Stresses** Latvia's unwavering support for Ukraine's integration into the European Union and NATO, acknowledges Ukraine's place among Europe's democratic nations, and commends Ukraine for the reforms it has undertaken and the progress it has demonstrated while continuing its fight against Russia's military aggression;

**Calls** on allies to accelerate military and economic support for Ukraine, ensuring a unified approach with key international partners, and to uphold the principle of 'peace through strength' in securing a just and lasting peace;

**Reaffirms** that Latvia remains committed to allocating at least 0.25 per cent of its gross domestic product to military support for Ukraine;

**Reaffirms** that Latvia, as a member of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children, will continue to support efforts to ensure the return and rehabilitation of Ukrainian children who have been unlawfully deported or forcibly displaced by Russia;

**Declares** that Latvia is firmly committed to supporting Ukraine and international efforts to ensure full accountability for war crimes and other grave international crimes committed during Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;

**Welcomes** the progress achieved in discussions on the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine and supports its creation within the framework of the Council of Europe to hold Russia's political and military leadership accountable;

**Supports** the imposition of even stricter and broader sanctions on Russia, **calls** on the international community to reinforce existing sanctions and ensure their full and effective enforcement;

**Urges** a particular focus on halting Russia's "shadow fleet," weakening its military-industrial complex, restricting its energy sector, and controlling financial flows to diminish Russia's ability to sustain its aggression and finance its war against Ukraine;

**Calls** for the full alignment of sanctions imposed on Russia and Belarus to prevent Russia from circumventing restrictions through Belarus and to ensure the complete and effective enforcement of all sanctions;

**Urges** the Cabinet of Ministers, in collaboration with the governments of other countries supporting Ukraine, to advance the development of a mechanism for the confiscation and repurposing of all frozen assets of the Central Bank of Russia to aid Ukraine, including for military assistance and reconstruction efforts;

**Welcomes** the establishment of the Council of Europe's Register of Damage for Ukraine and the ongoing work on a compensation mechanism to ensure that Ukraine and its people receive reparations for the losses, harm, and suffering inflicted by Russia's aggression;

**Expresses** gratitude to the people of Latvia for their tireless support for Ukraine through donations, as well as for organising and delivering various forms of assistance to the Ukrainian people and soldiers, and encourages them to continue these efforts;

**Reaffirms** that Latvia stands resolutely with Ukraine and its people and will remain steadfast in supporting Ukraine's fight for independence and sovereignty until victory is secured.