

STATEMENT

I hereby announce that, during its plenary sitting of 11 August 2022, the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia,

noting that since Russia's unprovoked military attack on Ukraine on 24 February 2022, twelve million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes and more than five million—to flee their country;

recalling that, since 2014, Russia has supported inexorable separatism and violence against civilians in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, as well as in the occupied Crimean Peninsula, by military, financial, and political means;

highlighting that Russia has for many years supported and financed terrorist regimes and organisations, being the largest arms supplier to the Assad regime in Syria, and has carried out terrorist attacks in sovereign countries, including the poisoning of the Skripal family in the territory of the United Kingdom and the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, which cost the lives of 298 people;

recalling the consistent targeting of civilians by Russian forces, including the deliberate attack on a theatre in Mariupol, which killed approximately 600 people, the missile strikes on a residential area near Odesa, which killed at least 21 people, and the attack on a shopping mall in Kremenchuk, which killed 19 civilians;

referring to the revelations made in several reports by human rights groups and international observer missions that have documented the atrocities committed by the Russian Armed Forces against Ukrainian civilians, including torture, rape, murder, and mass detention of civilians in so-called filtration centres, as well as mass deportations;

responding to the attack by Russian forces on the prison in Olenivka, which killed more than 50 Ukrainian prisoners of war;

reacting to the missile attack by Russia on the port of Odesa on 23 July 2022—less than 24 hours after Ukraine and Russia had signed an agreement, brokered by Turkey and the United Nations Organisation, to resume the export of blocked Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea—whereby Russia has not only demonstrated contempt for its obligations and the international order and institutions, but also deliberately deepened the global food crisis, which will lead to hunger and suffering around the world;

underlining the immoral and illegal nature of the tactics chosen by Russia as it makes extensive use of particularly cruel and inaccurate weapons, thus violating international norms and mutilating people and inflicting severe suffering upon them, and Russian forces use internationally banned cluster munitions in Ukraine to sow fear and indiscriminately kill civilians;

recalling that Latvia recognises Russia's activity in Ukraine as targeted genocide against the Ukrainian people,

highlights that Russia purposefully targets Ukrainian civilians and uses suffering and intimidation as tools in its attempts to demoralise the Ukrainian people and armed forces and paralyse the functioning of the state in order to occupy Ukraine;

recognises Russia's violence against civilians committed in pursuit of political aims as terrorism, recognises Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism, and calls on other like-minded countries to express the same view;

strongly condemns the military aggression and large-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation carried out with the support and involvement of the Belarusian regime;

calls on the Euro-Atlantic community and its partners to urgently introduce and reinforce comprehensive sanctions against the Russian Federation in order to stop the military aggression of the Russian army in Ukraine, to increase military, financial, humanitarian, and diplomatic support to Ukraine, to unanimously support initiatives condemning Russian military activity in Ukraine and hold the perpetrators accountable, to isolate Russia from international and regional organisations, and take equivalent decisions and impose equivalent sanctions against Belarus as a supporter of Russia's military aggression;

calls on European Union member states to immediately suspend the issuance of tourist visas and restrict the issuance of entry visas to citizens of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus;

commemorates all victims of Russia's aggression in Ukraine—thousands of civilians and the defenders of Ukraine;

expresses its solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

Ināra Mūrniece
Speaker of the Saeima

Riga, 11 August 2022