

**STATEMENT OF THE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LATVIA**

On the 7th anniversary of the annexation of Crimea

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia,

referring to Decree No. 58/2020, signed by the President of Ukraine, declaring 26 February the Day of Crimean Resistance to commemorate Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars and other ethnic groups that jointly stood for Ukraine's territorial integrity in the 2014 support rally organised in Simferopol;

referring to the 6 March 2014 statement of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia on Russia's aggression in Ukraine; the 13 December 2018 statement on support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine vis-à-vis the aggression by the Russian Federation in the Sea of Azov and Kerch Strait; the 9 May 2019 statement on the 75th anniversary of the deportation of Crimean Tatars and support for the policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of Crimea; and the 21 November 2019 communication on the so-called elections held by the Russian Federation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol;

honouring the courage and heroic spirit of the Ukrainians living in the occupied territory, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and defending the territorial integrity of Ukraine;

commemorating the 7th anniversary of the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

strongly condemning the Russian Federation's continued aggression in Ukraine and military occupation of Crimea, a Ukrainian territory, which constitutes a serious violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and the Helsinki Final Act of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);

considering the progress of International Court proceedings and the current ruling that Russia must refrain from imposing limitations on ensuring the rights of representation of Crimean Tatars and the availability of education in the Ukrainian language, and the 14 January 2021 decision of the European Court of Human Rights to judge the merit of the complaints brought by Ukraine against Russia concerning possible violations of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Crimea;

expresses concern about the gross and systemic international human rights and humanitarian rights violations ongoing in Crimea since its illegal annexation in 2014, including illegal expropriation of Ukrainian State property, closure of schools wherein children are taught in Ukrainian, politically motivated repressions against Crimean Tatars, forcing the Russian Federation citizenship upon Ukrainian citizens, violation of the fundamental principles of freedom of religion and discrimination of members of the Crimean diocese of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Muslims and Jehovah's Witnesses, carried out by Russian occupation authorities;

denounces Russia's refusal to uphold the norms and principles of international law, disregarding the international community's calls for restoring

respect for human rights, instead expanding the militarisation of the Crimean Peninsula, increasing the presence of the Russian armed forces and armoured vehicles in Crimea, and drafting citizens of Ukraine into the Russian army;

reaffirms the support of the Republic of Latvia for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and consistent refusal to recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, emphasising unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

calls on the global democratic community to firmly stand for adherence to international law and democratic values in the entire international arena, and to support the international Crimean Platform established by the Ukrainian government and the non-governmental sector to fight for the de-occupation of Ukraine.