

STATEMENT

OF THE SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

On Russia's international crimes in Ukraine and the prosecution of those responsible

The Saeima of the Republic of Latvia:

reminding that the Russian Federation continues to grossly and blatantly violate international laws and obligations, including the principles of the UN Charter, through its aggressive war against Ukraine, its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity;

noting that the planning, preparation, initiation or implementation of war infringing international agreements, treaties, or guarantees constitutes a crime against peace;

considering the destruction and suffering caused by the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine since 2014, and in particular since 24 February 2022, the indiscriminate attacks by the Russian armed forces on populated areas and civilian infrastructure, the killing of thousands of Ukrainian civilians and the terrorist attacks against civilian infrastructure throughout Ukraine;

emphasising that the crimes committed so far by the armed forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine have been documented, and they demonstrate extreme cynicism and impunity, disregard of war regulations and laws that limit the use of military force;

referring to the UN Charter, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948, the IV Convention relating to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and the UN General Assembly resolution of 2 March 2022 on Aggression against Ukraine;

considering the statements by the Saeima of 21 April 2022 recognising the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine as a targeted genocide against the Ukrainian people, of 11 August 2022 recognising Russia's actions in Ukraine as terrorist activity and Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism, the Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of 13 October 2022, the Resolution of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly of 22 November 2022, and the Resolution of the European Parliament of 23 November 2022,

strongly condemns the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and does not recognise the annexation of the captured territories;

regards the Russian Federation as the ultimate threat to peace, both in Europe and worldwide;

strongly supports the investigation launched by the International Criminal Court with a view to identifying and prosecuting those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity on Ukrainian territory;

advocates the establishment, in addition to the International Criminal Court, which cannot exercise jurisdiction over the aggression against Ukraine, of a dedicated international tribunal for bringing perpetrators to justice for the international crime of aggression initiated by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022 with a full-scale military invasion of the territory of sovereign Ukraine;

joins the calls by the Ukrainian Parliament, like-minded states and international organisations to recognise the Russian regime as terrorist and the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism, and encourages the international community to adopt similar statements;

calls on the European Union to include the private Russian military company 'Wagner Group' in the list of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts (EU terrorist list);

reiterates its strong support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, as well as its invariable decision not to recognise the annexation of Ukrainian territories, including the Crimean Peninsula, as well as its continued strong support for deeper integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic area;

calls on the Euro-Atlantic Community and its partners to implement comprehensive international isolation of the Russian Federation, including as regards membership in international organisations and bodies such as the UN Security Council, and calls on the EU Member States to continue to identify and prevent actions under the aegis and direction of Russian diplomatic missions that are incompatible with diplomatic status;

urges to immediately and substantially reinforce political, economic, financial, military, technical and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine in order to help it defend itself against Russia's war of aggression and attempts to destabilise Ukraine's state institutions, undermine the country's economic stability and destroy critical energy, communication, water and transport infrastructure, as well as educational, health and cultural infrastructure;

advocates the need to develop a legal regime at the European Union level that would enable EU Member States to use frozen Russian assets to rebuild Ukraine and compensate victims of Russian aggression; and

expresses its solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.