

The President of the Security Council presents his compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their information, a copy of a **letter dated 21 February 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations** addressed to the President of the Security Council, and its enclosure.

This letter and its enclosure will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2022/138.

22 February 2022



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF ESTONIA TO THE UN



Permanent Mission of Latvia  
to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

21 February 2022

Excellency,

We have the honor to transmit a Joint Statement by Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in relation to the Security Council's meeting of 21 February on upholding of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Annex: as stated.

**Sven Jürgenson**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of Estonia

**Andrejs Pildegovičs**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of Latvia

**Rytis Paulauskas**

Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of the  
Republic of Lithuania

**His Excellency Mr. Vassily A. Nebenzia  
President of the UN Security Council  
United Nations  
New York**

Statement by the Republic of Latvia

UN Security Council Meeting

21 February 2022

New York

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Baltic States – Estonia, Lithuania and my own country Latvia.

Mr. President,

We welcome this emergency public meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the latest developments as regards further Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

I would like to thank the Undersecretary-General DiCarlo for her briefing.

This is the third time within less than a month that the Security Council has discussed further Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Unfortunately, the repeated SG's calls for serious de-escalation have been ignored by Russia. This is ominous moment for the UN. This is a repeated gross breach of the fundamental principles of international law, including the UN Charter. This undermines the foundations of the UN system.

Let me reiterate the unwavering support of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. President,

The decision taken today by the Russian Federation to recognize the independence of Luhansk and Doneck, the non-government controlled areas of Ukraine is a continuation of the attack on Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity that began in 2014 by annexation of Crimea in a gross violation of international law and the UN Charter, under a fabricated pretext, and by spreading false information.

This creeping annexation has taken many forms, including the issuing of Russia's passports to more than 800 000 citizens of Ukraine residing in the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk of Ukraine, and forced conscription to the Russian armed forces.

Russia is not a victim as it attempts to portray itself – it is the aggressor strengthening its security at the expense of others. One country must not seize another country's territory by the use or threat of the use of force.

Despite all the recent diplomatic efforts at all levels, including by the US, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, European Union, NATO, OSCE and others, Russia keeps dramatically escalating the situation and, in addition to unprecedented military build-up around Ukraine's borders and in Belarus where they will be allowed to stay indefinitely, Russia has ordered its military forces being sent in the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk of Ukraine, under the pretext of peacekeeping.

Mr. President,

While utterly condemning Russia's actions, Baltic States urge the international community to take the strongest possible measures, including strict and swift sanctions, to stop Russia's aggression and threat to European and global security and offer assistance to Ukraine.

Finally, it is our duty as members of the UN to defend the rules-based international order. The UN Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. This is one of the clearest principles of international law that all States must abide by. Disputes should be resolved peacefully and not by the use of force – this is not just the right thing but a legal duty, according to the Article 2.3 of the Charter. UN members must condemn such violations of the UN Charter and defend its key principles.

I thank you.