JOINT STATEMENT

of the Presidents of the Parliaments of the Republic of Estonia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland and Ukraine

(Adopted on 10 July 2023 in Riga, Latvia)

Mr Lauri Hussar, President of the Riigikogu of the Republic of Estonia, Mrs Baerbel Bas, President of the German Bundestag, Mr Edvards Smiltēns, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, Mrs Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Mrs Elżbieta Witek, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and Mr Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, gathered in Riga on 10 July 2023,

recalling that russia, which unleashed its unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, remains the main threat not only for an independent and democratic Ukraine, but also the Euro-Atlantic area and global peace and stability;

supporting all efforts of the international community, including substantial military, political, humanitarian and financial assistance of Ukraine, aimed at the victory of Ukraine, while being convinced that lasting peace is possible only through the preservation of unity, and the strengthening of alliances and unions brought together by common values and principles;

taking note of the application of Ukraine to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization calling for a decision on Ukraine's membership in NATO as an integral element of ensuring the security of Ukrainians and citizens throughout the Euro-Atlantic area, signed on September 30, 2022, by the President, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and the Prime Minister of Ukraine;

acknowledging the determination demonstrated by the Ukrainian people in their aspirations for integration into the Euro-Atlantic community;

recognizing that the question of Ukraine's membership in NATO is irreversible, that Ukraine should be invited to join NATO as soon as conditions allow through a political decision similar to Finland;

Welcoming broad support for Ukraine's membership in NATO, as reflected in the Chair’s Conclusions, expressed at the High-Level Meeting of Speakers of Parliaments of NATO countries held in Vilnius on 1-3 June 2023.

recognizing the impressive performance and solid experience of the Ukrainian army which contributes to Ukraine being a security provider and means that Ukraine’s membership in NATO would strengthen the Alliance as a whole and contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area;

welcoming the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Declaration 482 of 22 May 2023 “United and resolute in support of Ukraine” and European Parliament Resolution of 15

June 2023 on the sustainable reconstruction and integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community;

welcoming the resolutions of the Parliaments of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland, supporting Ukraine`s Euro-Atlantic aspirations;

welcoming the first inaugural meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Council at the NATO Summit in Vilnius that will advance our cooperation aimed at achieving eventual membership of Ukraine in NATO.

In light of the upcoming NATO Summit in Vilnius we call on the Allies:

to undertake the commitment that Ukraine will become a member of NATO and the Alliance will establish a path for Ukraine to join NATO;

to work closely to develop security commitments for Ukraine which will in no way be an alternative to Ukraine`s membership in NATO and should not slow down Ukraine's progress towards membership in NATO;

to support the Peace Formula of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, aimed at establishing a comprehensive, just and sustainable peace in Ukraine for global security;

to continue taking coordinated measures to meet Ukraine's urgent needs for military and defence equipment, focusing directly on air defence systems, long-range artillery and necessary ammunition, tanks and combat aircrafts;

to assist Ukraine in strengthening its defence capabilities and potential, including land, sea and air components, until Ukraine fully restores its territorial integrity and sovereignty within the internationally recognized borders of 1991;

to establish a crisis consultation mechanism with Ukraine to conduct consultations in the event of a threat to the territorial integrity, political independence or security of Ukraine or any of the NATO member states;

to provide NATO’s practical assistance to Ukraine by further strengthening the Comprehensive Assistance Package, aimed at achieving full interoperability of Ukraine with the Alliance and a comprehensive transition to NATO standards;

to take the NATO-EU strategic partnership to the next level confirming the importance of transatlantic unity and to focus the cooperation between NATO and EU on achieving truly tangible results on transatlantic security priorities, including on capability building of Ukraine and other partner countries.