

# Second Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform

23 - 24 October, 2023

Prague

Joint Declaration



## Joint Declaration of the Participants<sup>1</sup> of the Second Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform

Following the establishment of the International Crimea Platform at its Inaugural Summit on 23 August 2021 representatives of national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies of international organizations participating in the International Crimea Platform (hereinafter referred to as "Participants") gathered in Prague, Czech Republic, on 24 October 2023 to hold the Second Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform, jointly organized by the Czech Republic and Ukraine.

Recalling the Joint Statement of the International Crimea Platform Participants, adopted on the third anniversary of the establishment of the International Crimea Platform on 23 August 2023, and the stipulations of the Joint Declaration of the participants of the First Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform on 25 October 2022, held in Zagreb, Croatia,

recalling all relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly including 68/262 of 27 March 2014 "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 "Aggression against Ukraine", ES-11/2 of 24 March 2022 "Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine", ES-11/4 of 12 October 2022 "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine: Defending the Principles of the Charter of the United Nations", ES-11/5 of 14 November 2022 "Furtherance of remedy and reparation of aggression against Ukraine", 76/179 of 16 December 2022 "Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine", ES-11/6 of 23 February 2023 "Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine",

reaffirming that the International Crimea Platform remains the pivotal foreign policy instrument for consolidating international efforts aimed at the de-occupation and restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders, for mitigating the consequences of the temporary occupation and illegal attempt of annexation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and for safeguarding the rights and interests of Ukrainian citizens,

expressing our support for the key principles, objectives and philosophy of Ukraine's Peace Formula as a realistic peace initiative on the table, which reflects the principles of the UN Charter, considering the Peace Formula as a basis to establish comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine. Furthermore, emphasizing our willingness to assist tangible measures aimed at the support of the 10-point peace plan,

commending the endeavours of individual nations and international organizations in establishing Crimea Platform Support Groups within their respective parliamentary bodies,

recognizing that the Russian Federation's illegal temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in 2014 ultimately enabled the Russian Federation to launch its full-scale military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022,

emphasizing that the Russian Federation, by unleashing an illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and temporarily occupation and attempt of annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and parts of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhya regions of Ukraine, undertook to seize another state's internationally recognized territory by force which has resulted in numerous violations of international law, gross and systematic violations and abuses of

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<sup>1</sup> It is recognised that due to their constitutional position the Speakers of certain Parliaments and Chambers cannot directly associate themselves with substantive political statements, and therefore should not be seen as indicating specific support for all sections of this Joint Declaration. Nonetheless, on behalf of their Parliaments and Chambers, they recognise the importance of the issues raised in proposing particular ways forward. Furthermore, Speakers of Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Irish, Norwegian and Swedish parliaments are generally supportive of the content of this declaration, but they have constitutional/legal constraints, which prevent them from signing documents that could be perceived as binding for their parliaments and/or states. Similarly, GNA of Türkiye, while expressing its strong support to the foundational cause of the Joint Declaration, disassociates itself from the parts of the text that do not represent its national position.

human rights, and threats to fundamental aspects of Ukraine's sovereignty, and has undermined key principles of the international rules-based order, emphasizing the consequences of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, in particular, the mobilization campaign that targeted the civilian population, including the indigenous peoples, illegal deportations of Ukrainian children and civilian hostages, the theft of Ukrainian grain, aggravation of the political persecutions resulting from new repressive laws adopted by the occupying authorities of the Russian Federation,

emphasizing also the global consequences of the Russian aggression against Ukraine that affect nations and people worldwide such as the undermining of food security, the destabilisation of energy markets and prices, the risk to nuclear safety in the region and the lasting damage to the environment,

reaffirming the non-recognition and condemning in strongest possible terms the attempted illegal annexation by Russia of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as other temporary occupied or controlled territories of Ukraine, in particular parts of the Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, which constitute a clear violation of international law and present a direct and imminent threat to international security, bearing significant repercussions for the global community,

continuously reaffirming the unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, recognizing Ukraine's inherent right to self-defence against a war of aggression carried out by the Russian Federation, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter,

underlining that the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including the de-occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and the assurance of Ukraine's state sovereignty, constitute a fundamental prerequisite for ending the war and establishing lasting peace in the region,

reaffirming the Participants' readiness to implement the strategic goals of the parliamentary dimension of the International Crimea Platform, in particular promoting greater global and internal awareness of the situation on the Crimean Peninsula under temporary occupation by the Russian Federation,

reaffirming the Participants' readiness to support the current efforts of the Ukrainian state to develop the reintegration strategies and policies for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol after its de-occupation.

#### **The Participants condemn:**

- the Russian Federation's illegitimate so-called "referenda" conducted in parts of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions, as well as the sham "elections" in these temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, as they violate Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and have no validity under international law; which requires that their results be considered null and void and that any subsequent claims to incorporate these Ukrainian regions into the Russian Federation be unequivocally rejected,
- the human rights violations and violations of the international humanitarian law committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, including the summary executions of civilians, including children, sexual- and gender-based violence, destruction of civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals, schools, and homes and other, forced displacement of people, arbitrary detention and torture of civilians, denial of access to humanitarian assistance, suppression of freedom of speech and assembly, and persecution of religious and ethnic minorities,
- the political persecution in the temporarily occupied Crimean Peninsula that has been ongoing since 2014 and that targets mostly Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, including activists,

journalists, lawyers, in particular the Deputy Head of the Medzhlis of the Crimean Tatar people Nariman Dzhelyal, journalists Iryna Danylovykh and Vladyslav Yesypenko, activists Server Mustafayev and Server Saliyev as well as dozens of others,

- the use of human rights violations in the form of mass searches and political persecutions of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people,
- attempts to undermine Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar identity via attacks on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and mass imprisonment of the Muslim population, including destruction of the cultural heritage,
- the forcible transfer and deportation by Russia of Ukrainian children that was started in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol no later than 2015, is defined as a violation of international humanitarian law and is the subject of the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court,
- the ongoing militarization of the Crimean Peninsula by Russia, which undermines security and stability in the Black and Azov Seas region, and violates freedom of maritime navigation,
- the Russian Federation's unilateral decision to suspend the Black Sea Grain Initiative, coupled with its interference in Ukraine's grain exports and systematic attacks on export infrastructure facilities, as well as the intimidation directed towards commercial vessels in the Black Sea,
- the Russian Federation's blockade of Ukrainian sea ports, which disrupted global food supply chains, exacerbated global food insecurity situation leading to spike in food prices, and food crises in countries in need,
- Russia's offensive actions including against hydro-electric facilities conducted in a manner that has caused severe damage to natural environment of Ukraine and provoked a high threat of environmental disaster. Participants emphasize that Russia must bear ultimate responsibility for its war of choice, which has caused disastrous humanitarian, ecological, agricultural, and economic repercussions, and became one of the most significant ecological and technological catastrophes witnessed in Europe over recent decades,
- the serious violations of international humanitarian law and the continued gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights against the inhabitants of Crimea, including the indigenous Crimean Tatars peoples. These violations encompass a range of actions such as killings, disappearances, prosecutions driven by political motivations, discriminatory practices, harassment, intimidation, gender-based violence, arbitrary detentions and arrests,
- Russian Federation's control of and military presence at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which poses a serious threat to nuclear safety and security in Ukraine and beyond. We underscore that the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant stands as the largest facility of its kind in Europe, and any harm inflicted upon it could lead to catastrophic repercussions for Ukraine, Europe, and the global community,
- the Russian Federation's reported actions at the chemical plant "Crimean Titan" creating the risk of environmental damage in the northern Crimean Peninsula and southern Kherson region. If realized, such a sombre scenario would lead to a large-scale ecological disaster in the north of the Crimean Peninsula and in the south of the Kherson region, while causing an unpredictable number of human casualties and devastating regional economic damages.

**Participants declare that they intend to:**

- support international investigation into the war crimes, human rights violations and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Russian occupying authorities in Crimea, the City of

Sevastopol and elsewhere in Ukraine, support the International Criminal Court investigation in Ukraine, including Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and explore the establishment of an international tribunal for the crime of aggression,

- provide Ukraine with all assistance needed in achieving membership of the European Union and to support the start of negotiations in line with a merit-based approach,
- encourage other states and interparliamentary organizations to join the International Crimea Platform, which serves as a mechanism for consolidating interparliamentary endeavours directed towards de-occupation and further reintegration of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol,
- consider the establishment of the Crimea Platform Support Groups in the parliaments of the participating parliaments,
- reaffirm their resolute dedication to the principle of non-recognition of the attempted illegal annexation of Crimea, as well as attempts to illegally annex other Ukrainian territories, coupled with subsequent claims to incorporate these areas into the Russian Federation,
- reiterate our commitment to support the application and further strengthening of sanctions against the Russian Federation, and diplomatic, economic and other appropriate measures, in order to exert pressure on the Russian Federation, as well as to counter sanctions circumvention,
- continue calling on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its systematic and grave violations of human rights, including the continuous breaches of its international commitments and to provide full and unimpeded access to Crimea for established regional and international monitoring mechanisms,
- calls on international organisations such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to monitor the human rights situation in Crimea more closely and to take appropriate measures to support the gathering of evidence and registration of crimes and accountability for them,
- continue calling upon the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as the UN Committee against Torture, the UN Human Rights Council and all other relevant international bodies to strengthen efforts to ensure the improvement of the conditions of Ukrainian civilians held as hostages, as well as prisoners of war held by Russia and to prevent torture, humiliation of honour and dignity, violation of human rights, and to work towards establishing the whereabouts of all detained Ukrainian citizens,
- declare our readiness to provide support to the Ukrainian state in the process of development of reintegration strategies for the Crimean Peninsula as well as to assist Ukraine with their further implementation following the de-occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol,
- sustain the provision of political, diplomatic, military, security, financial, humanitarian, and other forms of assistance to Ukraine and to work on countering disinformation and false narratives, spread by Russia or other actors, in the digital space through increased global action to avoid possible destabilization attempts,
- raise awareness of these issues with their international and regional partners, especially among other parliamentarians and parliaments, and call on their partners to support and join the Peace Formula of President Zelenskyy,

- urge the relevant parties to take immediate and decisive actions to cease all activities endangering the cultural and historical heritage of Crimea. We appeal to international organizations, notably UNESCO and its bodies focused on safeguarding of cultural objects, to intensify their vigilance, protective measures, and monitoring of endangered cultural sites in Crimea. This encompasses the Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site,
- emphasize that Russia must bear ultimate responsibility for its war of choice, which has caused disastrous humanitarian, ecological, agricultural, and economic repercussions, and became one of the most significant ecological and technological catastrophes witnessed in Europe over recent decades and call on the international community to condemn Russia's offensive actions including against hydro-electric facilities whilst insisting upon Russia assuming accountability for its war of choice,
- call on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw all its forces from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant premises, to return it under full control of Ukraine and to permit the International Atomic Energy Agency to comprehensively exercise its supervisory and safeguard mandate over the facility,
- urge the Russian Federation to immediately demilitarize the Black Sea and Azov Sea regions and stop threatening the transportation of civilian cargo ships, acknowledging the critical significance of reinstating unrestricted freedom of navigation. Additionally, demand the full liberation and unblocking of all Ukrainian seaports,
- urge the Russian Federation to immediately resume participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative, cease hostilities against ports in Odesa and on the Danube, and desist from the unlawful appropriation and transport of Ukrainian grain from the temporarily occupied or controlled territories of Ukraine, including Crimea,
- demand that the Russian Federation immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw all its forces from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea.

**Adopted in Prague, Czech Republic,  
on 24 October 2023.**