



25 February 2022

Appeal by the Latvian Academy of Sciences to halt aggression by Russia against Ukraine

We, the Latvian Academy of Sciences as all for whom the unfettered right of peoples to self-determination, freedom and life is not an empty phrase categorically condemn the unprecedented military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Ukraine has not engaged in any hostile acts against the territory of the Russian Federation, neither against its military facilities or its civilian infrastructure, nor against its people, which could provide a formal pretext for military aggression by the Russian Federation.

On the contrary, it has been the continued interference over many years by the Russian Federation in the internal affairs of Ukraine, its military and economic support for separatists, the annexation of Crimea and clear violation of the Minsk Agreements, together with recognition of breakaway regions of Ukraine as independent states, which are in flagrant violation of international law by the Russian Federation.

When in 1994, Russia, the USA and the UK convinced Ukraine, then possessing the third-largest nuclear arsenal in the world, to accede to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear weapons state in return for the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, signed by the Russian Federation, the United States and the United Kingdom, which entered into force upon its signature, and which provided for Ukraine to transfer its nuclear weapons to the Russian Federation, with the signatories in return pledging to guarantee the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Later, France made a similar written commitment. On 4 December 1994, the government of the People's Republic of China issued a statement that it would always act as a guarantor of Ukraine to ensure that the interests of Ukraine would be respected provided it renounce nuclear weapons.

Today the Russian Federation has threatened the world with nuclear war were anyone to interfere with its aggression against Ukraine. It has also induced the Republic of Belarus to engage in this war, which represents a massive escalation of hostilities and which poses a direct military threat to other neighbouring countries, and could lead to World War III.

The Latvian Academy of Sciences expresses its full support for Ukraine as a country, and for its freedom-loving people in the struggle against an aggressor. We call upon all governments of the world to take immediate and effective measures to stop Russian aggression, and to restore the sovereign right of Ukraine to its territory as it was before annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of hostilities by Russian-backed separatists in the Donbass region.

We also call upon the Russian Academy of Sciences and Belarus Academy of Sciences to give an objective assessment of the invasion of Ukraine by the Army of the Russian Federation, and to do everything possible to prevent bloodshed by these armed forces on the territory of the sovereign and independent state of Ukraine.

We are with you, the people of Ukraine!