Republic of Lithuania Materials on International Law 2022

Edited by Andrius Bambalas and Saulius Katuoka***

[*Editorial Notes*:
1. Republic of Lithuania Materials on International Law 2022 (RLMIL2022) are drafted and classified pursuant to Recommendation (97)11 of 12 June 1997 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, as applied by the British Yearbook of International Law since 1997, with certain minor amendments.
2. For ease of reading, a number of abbreviations are used in the RLMIL2022, namely ECHR – Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1950; ECtHR – European Court of Human Rights; *Seimas* – Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania; Government – Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Unless explicitly provided for otherwise, references to cases or decisions in RLMIL2022 are references to acts of national courts and institutions. The case law of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania is available in English on its website https://www.lrkt.lt/en/. Case law of the European Court of Human Rights is available through the website https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng. Information on treaties of Lithuania are available at the following website: https://www.urm.lt/default/en/foreign-policy/treaties/bilateral. Universal and regional international instruments mentioned in RLMIL2022 do not bear any reference to their source, as these may be easily accessed from various pages on the internet. Due to limited scope, RLMIL2022 does not reproduce entire texts, therefore certain information is omitted and marked as [...].
3. The RLMIL2022 mostly concern opinions from institutions and officials from Lithuania. If not expressly stated otherwise, the institutions and officials mentioned in the RLMIL2022 are those of Lithuania. Often, different officials expressed views on the same issues. In order to prevent undue repetition, the editor has selected materials from the highest possible level. Some materials are quoted at length due to their importance or because they provide a useful insight into the relevant aspects of Lithuanian history, politics or geopolitical concerns, etc.

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4. There were several recurring topics in the speeches and statements made by officials. For example, the continuous condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, calls for the establishment of a special tribunal against Russia's aggression, the deterioration of diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation and remaining tensions with the Peoples' Republic of China and its economic pressure on Lithuania.
5. In 2022, the ECtHR communicated 19 cases to the Lithuanian Government, handed down 14 judgements on the merits against Lithuania and found violations in 9 cases. Violations concerned Articles 3, 9, 10 and Article 2 of Protocol No. 4 of the Convention. Two applications were declared inadmissible and 4 applications struck from the list, with 2 of them due to friendly settlement reached between the parties.]

Part One: II. International Law in General – History

1/1

On 26 August 2022, in a joint statement with a Joint Declaration to mark Three Decades of the Re-establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Iceland and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Iceland's first recognition of the said States was commemorated and Russia's aggression against Ukraine was condemned. The relevant section reads as follows:

> On the 26th of August 1991, Mr. Lennart Meri, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Mr. Janis Jurkans, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, and Mr. Algirdas Saudargas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, met with Mr. Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland in Höfði, Reykjavík, to sign Joint Declarations on the Re-establishment of diplomatic relations.
>
> The Declarations represented the first act of recognition by another state of the restored independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, subsequently recognized by the international community.
>
> Today, the Foreign Ministers of Estonia, Iceland, Latvia and Lithuania meet again in Reykjavik. Much has been accomplished in the last three decades of our relations. The countries are close allies within NATO – the strongest collective defence Alliance – and true partners in European political and economic cooperation, as well as in the international arena. They stand shoulder to shoulder in meeting today´s grave security threats and challenges.
>
> The Ministers affirm their strong condemnation of Russia´s unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war in Ukraine, which is in clear

> violation of international law and the UN Charter. The Russian cruel aggression has had a catastrophic impact on Ukraine and caused not only tremendous suffering of its civilian population but also serious long-term geopolitical, economic and humanitarian consequences worldwide. The Ministers stressed their steadfast unity with the people of Ukraine and underscored their unwavering commitment to provide further support for Ukraine as it stands up to Russia´s aggression and is on the frontline of fight for all of Europe and values we share.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-declaration-to-mark-three-decades-of-the-re-establishment-of-diplomatic-relations-between-iceland-and-estonia-latvia-and-lithuania>, visited on 16 February 2024)

Part Two: I.C. Sources and Codification of International Law – Sources of International Law – General Principles of Law

2/I

On 3 March 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, participated remotely in the United Nations Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) urgent debate on Ukraine's human rights crisis caused by Russian aggression and noted that Russia was violating all principles of international law. The relevant text of the announcement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is as follows:

> The Foreign Minister noted that, while international discussions were taking place, the people in Ukraine were defending not only themselves and their state against Russia's brutal aggression, but also the international order that had arisen from the ashes of World War II. "The ongoing military offensive by Russia in Ukraine violates all principles of international law. Civilians have been killed and urban infrastructure has been destroyed, including kindergartens and hospitals. There will be enormous consequences for the human rights and humanitarian situation in Ukraine," Landsbergis said.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/in-the-unhrc-urgent-debate-lithuanias-foreign-minister-gabrielius-landsbergis-demands-that-effective-international-mechanisms-be-established-to-punish-russia-for-its-offensive-against-ukraine>, visited on 27 January 2024)

Part Three: II.A. The Law of Treaties – Observance, Application, and Interpretation of Treaties – Observance of Treaties

3/1

On 7 July 2022 in Vienna, at the Permanent Council of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Lithuania urged Belarus not to violate the OSCE commitments to ensure teaching in national minority languages. The relevant text of the announcement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is as follows:

> Belarus adopted new amendments of its Education Code, under which from 1st September 2022 it will no longer provide the education in Lithuanian language in Lithuanian schools in Rymdziuny and Pelesa.
>
> "The actions taken by the Belarus authorities violate international obligations and OSCE commitments undertaken with respect to national minorities and will most negatively affect the educational and linguistic rights of the national minorities in Belarus, including the Lithuanian minority. This is a first step toward closure of the national minorities' schools in Belarus" emphasised Nida Jakubonė, Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the International Organisations in Vienna.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-urged-belarus-not-to-violate-its-international-commitments-on-education-in-national-minority-languages>, visited on 14 January 2024)

Part Four: II. Relationship between International Law and Domestic Law – Application and Implementation of International Law in Domestic Law

4/1

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania in ruling No KT45-N3/2022, case No. 1/2021-6/2021-20/2021, dated 15 April 2022 on the compliance of the acts of the President of the Republic of Lithuania and the *Seimas* of the Republic of Lithuania related to the dismissal of the judges of the Supreme Court of Lithuania and the Court of appeal of Lithuania with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, indicated the European standards for dismissal

of judges from their office and on their independence. The relevant paragraph reads as follows:

17. In the context of these constitutional justice cases, it is noted that the requirement to ensure the independence of judges and courts, including the dismissal of judges from office, is enshrined in European Union law.
    17.1. The Court of Justice of the European Union (hereinafter "CJEU") has repeatedly noted that the principle of judicial independence arises from the provisions of Article 19(1) second paragraph of the Treaty on the European Union (for example, the judgment of 27 February 2018, in case C-64/16 *Associação Sindical dos Juízes Portugueses*, the judgment of 24 June 2019, in case C-619/18 *Commission v. Poland*). It has been noted in CJEU jurisprudence that, in accordance with the principle of the separation of powers, characteristic of the functioning of a state governed by the rule of law, the independence of the courts from the legislative and executive authorities must first and foremost be ensured (*inter alia*, the judgment of 19 November 2019 in joined cases C-585/18, C-624/18, and C-625/18 *A. K. and others*, paragraph 124, the judgment of 21 December 2021, in joined Cases C-357/19, C-379/19, C-547/19, C-811/19, and C-840/19 *Euro Box Promotion and others*, paragraph 228).
    17.2. Guarantees of independence and impartiality are related to the requirement that there be rules, among other things, regarding the composition of the court, the appointment of its members, the duration of their mandates, and the reasons for recusal, disqualification, and dismissal (the judgment of 19 September 2006 in case C-506/04 *Wilson*, paragraph 53, the judgment of 24 June 2019 in case C-619/18 *Commission v. Poland*); certain guarantees are necessary to protect the freedom of judges from any external influence or pressure, such as guarantees of irremovability (*inter alia*, the judgment of 25 July 2018 in case C-216/18 PPU *Minister for Justice and Equality*, paragraph 64); judges may be dismissed from office in accordance with the relevant procedures if they are no longer fit for duty due to incapacity or serious misconduct (the judgment of 24 June 2019 in case C-619/18 *Commission v. Poland*, paragraph 76).

18. In the context of these constitutional justice cases, it is also noted that the duty to ensure the independence of judges and courts is enshrined in Article 6(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950 (hereinafter "Convention").

    In interpreting these provisions of the Convention, the European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter "ECtHR") has stated that in order to ascertain whether a court is independent within the meaning of Article 6 of the Convention, it must be assessed, among other things, how judges are appointed and dismissed from office (the judgment of 3 March 2005 in case *Brudnicka and Others v. Poland*, application No. 54723/00, paragraph 38, the judgment of 27 May 2013 in case *Oleksandr Volkov v. Ukraine*, application No. 21722/11, paragraph 103).

    The irremovability of judges arises from the principle of judicial independence, which is inseparable from the principle of the rule of law, and therefore should be attributed to the guarantees of Article 6(1) of the Convention; this principle is not absolute, but its exceptions are only permissible if justified by a legitimate aim, are proportionate to the aim pursued, and cannot be understood as creating conditions that would undermine the inviolability and neutrality of the judiciary (the judgment of ECtHR Grand Chamber of 1 December 2020, *Guðmundur Andri Ástráðsson v. Iceland*, application No. 26374/18, paragraph 239).

19. In this context, mention should also be made of Recommendation No. (2010)12 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 17 November 2010 on judges: independence, efficiency and responsibilities, which is aimed at, among other things, strengthening measures to ensure the independence of judges, the efficiency of their activities, guarantees, and responsibilities, and it is indicated in its appendix that the disciplinary responsibility procedure for a judge must be carried out by an independent institution or court observing all appropriate procedural guarantees and giving the judge the right to appeal against the decision adopted (paragraph 69); judges in their activities must adhere to principles of professional ethics, which not only affirm the duties for the nonfulfilment of which disciplinary responsibility is envisaged, but also indicate the proper directions of judges' conduct (paragraph 72).

20. When examining this constitutional justice case, the following provisions of the European Commission for Democracy through Law

(Venice Commission), acting as an advisory body of the Council of Europe on constitutional matters, regarding the dismissal of judges from office, are noteworthy:

- Member States are recommended to ensure that judicial authorities or a judges' council participate in the procedure for the dismissal of judges (Venice Commission's Opinion of 17 December 2017 on Polish legislation related to the reform of the judicial system, paragraph 108);
- When deciding on the dismissal of judges using disciplinary responsibility, there is no basis to evaluate them differently depending on whether they are lower or higher level judges; judges of all levels of jurisdiction must have equal guarantees of independence in administering justice (Venice Commission's Opinion of 4 December 1995 on the Law on the organization of the judiciary in Albania);
- Such an undefined term as "breach of oath" should not be a basis for the dismissal of a judge; a more appropriate basis would be conduct incompatible with the further performance of judicial duties (Venice Commission's Opinion of 10 December 2013 on the draft law of Ukraine on amendments to the Constitution aimed at strengthening the independence of judges, paragraph 54).

(Available in Lithuanian only at the website of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania, <https://lrkt.lt/lt/teismo-aktai/paieska/135/ta2643/content>, visited on 4 February 2024)

Part Five: I.B.2. Subjects of International Law – States – Recognition – Recognition of Governments

5/1

On 8 August 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania met with representatives of civil society and the opposition of Belarus and Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, recognising her as the Belarusian leader.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-support-for-democratic-forces-of-belarus-will-remain-on-lithuanias-agenda>, visited on 04 March 2024)

Part Five: I.B.6. Subjects of International Law – States – Recognition – Non-recognition (including Non-recognition of Governments) and Its Effects

5/2

On 21 February 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement, strongly condemning Russia's illegal recognition of the independence of Russian-controlled territories in Ukraine:

> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania strongly condemns Russia's decision to recognize two areas in Ukraine's Luhansk and Donetsk regions, which are held by Russian-backed separatists, as independent.
>
> This decision constitutes a gross violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Helsinki Final Act, and the Charter of Paris. After annexing Ukraine's Crimea in 2014, Russia continues to undermine the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as its own Budapest Memorandum commitments to Ukraine. By occupying the territories of a sovereign state, Russia is also retreating from the implementation of the Minsk Agreements, which it has signed and which stipulate the process of restoring control over the territories to the Ukrainian Government.
>
> 8 years of Russian aggression against Ukraine, including this last decision, as well as Russia's disrespect of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, pose a threat not only to the European security architecture, but also to global peace and security.
>
> Underlining the UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine, we call upon the Russian Federation to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Russia must immediately cease its aggression in Ukraine, return to diplomacy, continue making political efforts to settle the conflict, and withdraw its troops from the occupied territories and from the border with Ukraine.
>
> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs notes that the recent escalation proves the need to reinforce deterrence along NATO's eastern flank.
>
> Russia's aggression against Ukraine must receive a strong response from the international community, including coordinated restrictive measures by the European Union, the U.S. and other like-minded partners targeting specific economic sectors of the Russian Federation, as well as responsible persons and entities.
>
> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania strongly supports the free choice of the Ukrainian people to build their country based on the values

> of Western democracy and Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations. Lithuania will continue to make every effort to support Ukraine's statehood and independence, and, together with its allies and partners, will provide all necessary assistance.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-ministry-strongly-condemns-russias-illegal-recognition-of-independence-of-russia-controlled-territories-in-ukraine>, visited on 11 March 2024)

5/3

On 28 February 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement of non-recognition of the referendum on amendments to the Constitution of Belarus that took place on 27 February 2024:

> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs that Lithuania does not recognise the outcome of the so-called referendum on amendments to the Constitution of Belarus that took place in Belarus on 27 February and considers it invalid.
>
> The referendum was organised by the institutions of the Belarusian regime that have lost their legitimacy in an environment of fear, repression of civil society, and suppression of alternative opinion. The Belarusian authorities have destroyed independent mass media. Penal facilities held more than 1,070 political prisoners. Other voices have been relentlessly silenced. The government has suppressed the freedom of expression.
>
> A segment of the Belarusian society, forced into exile, has had no right to express a position. Under such conditions, it is impossible to genuinely engage in a public debate on fundamental issues pertaining to the country's Constitution.
>
> In addition, the so-called referendum was organised at a time when an unprecedented number of Russian occupying troops were deployed in the country and Russia was invading a neighbouring sovereign state of Ukraine from the territory of Belarus.
>
> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemns the aggressive actions by Russia and Belarus, and urges Russia to withdraw all of its troops and military equipment from the territory of Belarus and to end the invasion of Ukraine.
>
> Against this backdrop, the plebiscite is viewed as only an attempt by Alexander Lukashenko to legitimise himself and to secure the leadership

of Belarus indefinitely. This process cannot be regarded as credible in the eyes of both the Belarusian people and the international community.

The only way out of the stalemate is to start as soon as possible a dialogue with Belarusia's civil society on new, free and fair elections, which would be monitored by international observers led by the OSCE/ODIHR and in line with internationally recognised standards.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanian-foreign-ministrys-statement-on-the-so-called-referendum-on-amendments-to-the-constitution-of-belarus->, visited on 15 March 2024)

5/4

[*17.3*]

Part Five: 11.A.2. Subjects of International Law – International Organizations – in General – Participation of States and International Organizations in International Organisations and in Their Activities

5/5

On 24–25 January 2022, at the 40th session of the Working Group of Universal Periodic Review, Lithuania offered human rights recommendations to Syria, Iceland and Venezuela.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/at-the-universal-periodic-review-lithuania-offers-human-rights-recommendations-to-syria-iceland-and-venezuela-1>, visited on 29 February 2024)

5/6

On 28–31 January 2022, at the 40th session of the Working Group of Universal Periodic Review, Lithuania offered human rights recommendations to Moldova and South Sudan.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/at-the-universal-periodic-review-in-geneva-lithuania-offered-human-rights-recommendations-to-moldova-and-south-sudan->, visited on 29 February 2024)

5/7

On 9 February 2022, at the 40th session of the Working Group of Universal Periodic Review, Lithuania offered human rights recommendations to Sudan.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/at-the-universal-periodic-review-in-geneva-lithuania-offered-human-rights-recommendations-to-sudan>, visited on 29 February 2024)

5/8

On 7–18 November 2022, at the 41st session of the Working Group of Universal Periodic Review, Lithuania offered human rights recommendations to Bahrain, Finland, the United Kingdom, India, Algeria, Philippines, Brazil, Poland and the Netherlands.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-actively-participated-in-the-41st-session-of-the-working-group-on-the-universal-periodic-review-of-the-un-human-rights-council-1>, visited on 4 March 2024)

Part Five: 11.A.2.(a). Subjects of International Law – International Organizations – in General – Participation of States and International Organizations in International Organisations and in Their Activities – Admission

5/9

On 16 May 2022, a joint statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Baltic States regarding the decision of Finland and Sweden to join NATO was made:

> We, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania fully endorse historic decisions of Sweden and Finland to apply for joining NATO, the strongest and the most successful Alliance in history.
>
> We are confident that both Sweden and Finland will contribute to unity, solidarity, cohesion and strength of the Alliance and whole Transatlantic area, at a time when the security environment we face is increasingly complex.
>
> Their membership will also greatly increase the security of the Baltic Sea region, open new perspectives for Nordic-Baltic and other regional cooperation formats in defence and security matters, providing additional strategic clarity that benefits all.

> We will do what it takes to assist our long-standing Nordic friends on their path to the upcoming Alliance of 32. We are committing ourselves to promote speedy ratification of the accession protocols once they are signed.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-statement-of-the-ministers-of-foreign-affairs-of-the-baltic-states-regarding-the-decision-of-finland-and-sweden-to-join-nato>, visited on 24 January 2024)

Part Five: II.A.2.(d). Subjects of International Law – International Organizations – in General – Participation of States and International Organizations in International Organisations and in Their Activities – Representation of States and International Organizations to International Organizations, Including Privileges and Immunities

5/10

On 16 November 2022, at a meeting of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Lithuania became the 31st member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-becomes-a-member-of-the-oecd-development-assistance-committee>, visited on 14 February 2024)

Part Six: VIII.C. The Position of the Individual (Including the Corporation) in International Law – Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms – Under the Council of Europe Treaty System

6/1

On 18 January 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *Adomaitis* v. *Lithuania*, where it considered whether the interception of telephone communications during criminal intelligence investigations against a prison director and the use of that information in disciplinary proceedings leading to his dismissal, constituted violations of Article 6 § 1 and Article 13 of the Convention. The Court assessed the factual circumstances of the case and

found that that the applicant had effective access to a court for his complaints about the interception of his telephone communications and the use of the thus obtained information, and his complaints were given due examination by domestic courts of both general and administrative jurisdiction. Therefore, the Court found no violation of Article 6 § 1 of the Convention. And although the Court found that the interception of the applicant's telephone conversations, the storage of that information and its disclosure in the disciplinary proceedings, which ultimately led to his dismissal, amounted to an interference with his right to respect for his private life, it was regarded as necessary and proportionate and thus no violation of Article 8 of the Convention was found.
(*Adomaitis* v. *Lithuania*, application no. 14833/18, 18 January 2022, Judgement of the Chamber)

6/2

On 1 March 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *Ozarovskij and Others* v. *Lithuania*, where it considered the allegedly inadequate conditions of the applicants' detention at Alytus Correctional Facility, dormitory no. 2. In view of the very serious state of dilapidation of the building in which the applicants were detained for lengthy periods of time, the Court found that those conditions exceeded the unavoidable level of suffering inherent in detention, and that could not be remedied by the applicants having sufficient personal space or being able to freely move around that same dilapidated facility. Therefore, a violation of Article 3 of the Convention in respect of all six applicants was found.
(*Ozarovskij and Others* v. *Lithuania*, application nos. 17774/20, 18683/20, 38136/20, 40080/20, 43904/20, 45373/20, 1 March 2022, Judgement of the Committee)

6/3

On 22 March 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *T.K. and Others v. Lithuania*, where it considered whether decisions by the Lithuanian authorities to refuse requests for asylum lodged by the applicants and to remove them to Tajikistan put them at a risk of ill-treatment because of the first applicant's membership in a banned opposition political party, thus violating Article 3 of the Convention. The court noted that information about the treatment in the country of origin of persons who are in a similar situation to the applicants is one of the factors to be considered when assessing whether an applicant's fear of persecution can be considered well-founded. Since Lithuanian authorities did not carry out an adequate assessment of the existence in Tajikistan of the practice of ill-treatment of persons who were in a similar situation to the applicants, but instead focused on the lack of any past threats or persecution

directed against the applicants, or the lack of other special distinguishing features, the court held by five votes to two that there would be a violation of Article 3 of the Convention if the applicants were removed to Tajikistan without a fresh assessment of their claims that their return would expose them to a risk of ill-treatment.
(*T.K. and Others* v. *Lithuania*, application no. 55978/20, 22 March 2022, Judgement of the Chamber)

6/4

On 29 March 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *Laniauskas v. Lithuania*, where it considered whether the detention of a convicted prisoner who is nearly blind (lost 90% of his working capacity) in view of his visual impairment is incompatible with Article 3 of the Convention. The Court noted that applicant's complaint in the present case concerned not so much his access to medical care or assistance as his wish to be released from serving the remainder of his sentence and reiterated that Article 3 of the Convention cannot be construed as laying down a general obligation to release detainees on health grounds. Consequently, the Court concluded that the applicant's visual impairment was not such as to make his continued detention incompatible with Article 3 of the Convention and thus found no violation of the Convention.
(*Laniauskas* v. *Lithuania*, application no. 48309/19, 29 March 2022, Judgement of the Chamber)

6/5

On 17 May 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *Laniauskas v. Lithuania*, where it considered the applicant's complaint under Article 3 of the Convention that he was ill-treated by officers during a riot in prison. The Court indicated that it was mindful of the potential for violence that existed in penal institutions and of the fact that disobedience by detainees may quickly cause a situation to degenerate. The Court accepted that the use of force might be necessary on occasion to ensure prison security, and to maintain order or prevent crime in detention facilities. Nevertheless, such force may be used only if indispensable and must not be excessive. During the domestic proceedings, it was acknowledged that physical force had been used against prisoners on 22 July 2016, and injuries similar to those sustained by the applicant had been detected on eighty-two other prisoners following the events in question. The Court further observed that during the domestic proceedings and in the applicant's submissions to the Court, he consistently argued that he had not participated in the prison riot and had not resisted officers. Indeed, he was not listed

among the main organisers of and participants in the riot identified by the authorities, nor was it asserted at any stage of the domestic proceedings that the use of force against the applicant had been made strictly necessary by his own conduct. Accordingly, despite the minor severity of the injuries which the applicant sustained, such use of force amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment and thus there was a violation of Article 3 of the Convention under its substantive limb. The applicant was also awarded EUR 8,000 in respect of non-pecuniary damage.
(*Laniauskas* v. *Lithuania*, application no. 6544/20, 17 May 2022, Judgement of the Committee)

6/6

On 7 June 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *Teliatnikov* v. *Lithuania*, where it considered whether Lithuanian legal regulation on conscientious objection had violated the applicant's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, under Article 9 of the Convention. The Court observed that the applicant, as a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses, sought to be exempted from military and alternative national defence service but had explicitly requested that the authorities provide him with the opportunity to perform alternative civilian service, which was not available in Lithuania. The Court noted that eleven years ago the Court had noted that almost all the Member States of the Council of Europe which ever had or still have compulsory military service had introduced alternatives to such service in order to reconcile the possible conflict between individual conscience and military obligations and that a State which has not done so enjoyed only a limited margin of appreciation. In the Court's opinion, a system of mandatory military service where the matter of civilian service had not been resolved, failed to strike a fair balance between the interests of society as a whole and those of the applicant, who had never refused to comply with his civic obligations in general. Therefore, the Court found that the system in Lithuania failed to strike a fair balance between the interests of society and those of the applicant who has deeply and genuinely held beliefs and thus found a violation of Article 9 of the Convention.
(*Teliatnikov* v. *Lithuania*, application no 51914/19, 7 June 2022, Judgement of the Chamber)

6/7

On 12 June 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *Butkevičius* v. *Lithuania*, where it heard a case concerning a complaint by the applicant, who was the former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, that the State

authorities had breached his right to private life and correspondence by disclosing one of his telephone conversations to the media. The applicant alleged, in particular, that the release into the public domain of transcripts of an intercepted telephone call between him and a mayor, who was subject to pre-trial investigation regarding possible political corruption in connection with territorial planning, had amounted to a breach of Article 8 of the Convention. The Court noted that the conversation at issue which was intercepted and disclosed concerned the matter of the adoption of the relevant Government Resolution, that the conversation contained no elements related to the applicant's private life, such as questions relating to his health, sexual life or similar matters and such disclosure did not result in any concrete and tangible repercussions on his private life, nor to the applicant's dismissal from the post of Prime Minister, or any other sanctions against him. In light of the above, and with regard to the applicant establishing and maintaining relationships with others, the Court found that even if his reputation among his colleagues had been affected by the disclosure of his telephone conversation, there were no factual grounds, let alone evidence that would indicate that such an effect had been so substantial as to have constituted a disproportionate interference with his rights guaranteed by Article 8 of the Convention. Therefore, it found no violation of the Convention.
(*Butkevičius* v. *Lithuania*, application no. 70489/17, 14 June 2022, Judgement of the Chamber)

6/8

On 14 June 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *L.B. v. Lithuania*, where it considered whether the Lithuanian authorities' refusal to issue a travel document to the applicant, a permanent resident of Chechen origin, who previously had been granted subsidiary protection, on the grounds that he could request such a document from the authorities of his country of origin (Russia) violated the applicant's rights under Article 8 of the Convention and Article 2 of Protocol No. 4 to the Convention. The Court found that the refusal to issue the applicant with an alien's passport was taken without carrying out a balancing exercise and without ensuring that such a measure was justified and proportionate in his individual situation. That refusal was based on formalistic grounds, namely that he had not demonstrated that he was personally at risk of persecution and that he was not considered a beneficiary of asylum at that time, without adequate examination of the situation in his country of origin, as well as on the purported possibility of obtaining a Russian passport, without any assessment of whether that possibility was accessible to him in practice in view of his particular circumstances. Consequently, the Court found that there

was a violation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 4 to the Convention and awarded the applicant 5,000 EUR in respect of non-pecuniary damage.
(*L.B.* v. *Lithuania*, application no. 38121/20, 14 June 2022, Judgement of the Chamber)

6/9

On 28 June 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *Sokolovas v. Lithuania*, where it considered the use of an electroshock device by the police against the applicant and the investigation into his allegations of ill-treatment. The Court noted that during the pre-trial investigation it was not assessed whether detailed conditions prescribed in domestic law for when physical force and restraining measures, including an electroshock device, could be used by law-enforcement officers had been fulfilled, and whether the applicant's actions had attained the requisite level of dangerousness to justify the use of an electroshock device. Moreover, there was no indication that the police officers were asked to explain in any detail why they had considered less coercive measures to be insufficient to restrain the applicant. Lastly, the authorities failed to examine whether the applicant had been given an advance warning about the use of an electroshock device, and if not, whether dispensing with a warning had been justified. In such circumstances, the Court was unable to find that the investigation into the applicant's allegations of ill-treatment was thorough and there had accordingly been a violation of Article 3 of the Convention under its procedural limb. In addition, the Court awarded the applicant 12 000 EUR in respect of non-pecuniary damage.
(*Sokolovas* v. *Lithuania*, application no. 10049/20, 28 June 2022, Judgement of the Committee)

6/10

On 15 November 2022, the ECtHR issued a judgment in the case of *Marcinkevičius v. Lithuania*, where it considered the applicant's complaint that a decision by the domestic courts ordering the applicant to retract a statement he had made in an interview, was a value judgment and that the order to retract it had violated his right to freedom of expression, contrary to Article 10 of the Convention.

The article, including the statements made by the applicant, discussed his allegations that N.N., who was a major shareholder of that company and one of the richest persons in Lithuania, might have avoided paying large amounts of taxes. The Court observed that the applicant's statement, which consisted of three sentences, was given in response to the three questions posed by the journalist. The domestic courts considered that each of the three

questions and answers had to be assessed independently and the Court was of the view that, since the article, as a whole, was found to present two different opinions, it was incumbent on the domestic courts to provide a convincing explanation for singling out one particular sentence and treating it differently from the rest of the article. Moreover, the Court noticed a certain contradiction in the reasoning of the domestic courts: they accepted that the applicant's allegations that N.N. might have concluded unlawful deals and avoided paying taxes were value judgments which fell within the limits of acceptable criticism of a public figure, but came to the opposite conclusion with regard to the sentence which concerned the potential consequences – damage to the State and shareholders – of those same alleged actions. Therefore, the Court concluded that the domestic courts' finding that the second sentence of the third statement made by the applicant was a statement of fact and that it did not have a sufficient factual basis was not based on an acceptable assessment of the relevant facts. Consequently, the order for the applicant to retract that statement could not be considered necessary in a democratic society and the Court found a violation of Article 10 of the Convention.
(*Marcinkevičius* v. *Lithuania*, application no. 24919/20, 15 November 2022, Judgement of the Chamber)

Part Seven: V. Organs of the State and Their Status – Consulates and Their Members

7/1

On 18 March 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania summoned Russia's Ambassador to Lithuania Alexey Isakov and handed him a diplomatic note, declaring four employees of the Russian Embassy as *personae non gratae* in Lithuania for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status, as well as ordering them to leave Lithuania within five days.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-declares-four-employees-of-the-russian-embassy-as-personae-non-gratae>, visited on 15 January 2024)

7/2

On 29 March 2022, the Lithuania's Ambassador to Russia officially informed of the expulsion of employees of the Lithuanian Embassy. The relevant paragraphs of announcement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania are as follows:

> On 29 March, the Ambassador of Lithuania in Moscow Eitvydas Bajarūnas was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and handed in a diplomatic note, informing him of the expulsion from Russia of four employees of the Lithuanian representation – 2 diplomats and 2 civil servants.
>
> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania condemns this step taken by Moscow and reminds that Lithuania has expelled representatives of Russia's special services, who had worked under the diplomatic cover at the Russian Embassy in Vilnius and not the diplomats who had worked there.
>
> The Foreign Ministry once again calls on Russia to abandon the practice of sending representatives of Russia's special services to serve under the diplomatic cover at diplomatic representations.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-ambassador-to-russia-officially-informed-about-the-expulsion-of-employees-of-the-lithuanian-embassy>, visited on 18 January 2024)

7/3

On 3 October 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania announced the expulsion of a *chargé d'affaires ad interim* of the Russian Federation:

> On 3 October, a representative of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Lithuania was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and handed a note declaring the chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Russian Federation Sergey Ryabokon as persona non grata. Sergey Ryabokon is given five days to leave the country.
>
> Lithuania made the decision taking into account the information provided by competent authorities that recent actions and statements by S. Ryabokon were incompatible with his diplomatic status, regarded as an interference in the host state's internal affairs, and, therefore, violated the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
>
> Lithuania's Foreign Ministry also strongly protested against the Russian President's decision of 30 September to illegally annex the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, parts of which were temporarily occupied by Russia.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-expels-a-charge-daffaires-ad-interim-of-the-russian-federation>, visited on 25 February 2024)

7/4

On 5 October 2022, a representative of Lithuania's Embassy in Moscow was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and received a diplomatic note on the expulsion of the *chargé d'affaires ad interim* of the Lithuanian Embassy, Virginija Umbrasienė, from Russia in response to Lithuania's decision of 3 October to expel the *chargé d'affaires ad interim* of Russia, Sergey Ryabokon, from Lithuania.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://urm.lt/default/en/news/regarding-russias-decision-to-expel-the-charge-daffaires-ad-interim-of-lithuania>, visited on 25 February 2024)

7/5

On 1 December 2022 a representative of the Russian Embassy to Lithuania was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was handed a note declaring an employee of Russia's Embassy *persona non grata* in Lithuania for activities incompatible with his diplomatic status. He is ordered to leave the country within five days.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/employee-of-russias-embassy-to-lithuania-declared-persona-non-gratat>, visited on 15 January 2024)

7/6

On 21 April 2022 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania issued a statement on Russia's decision to close Lithuania's Consulate General in St. Petersburg:

> Today, on 21 April, the Acting Head of the Embassy of Lithuania in Moscow Virginija Umbrasienė was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and informed about Russia's decision to withdraw its consent to the functioning of the Consulate General of Lithuania in St. Petersburg. All employees of the Consulate General and their family members must leave Russia's territory within 15 days.
>
> Lithuania's representative was informed that Russia had taken this decision in response to Lithuania's decision of 4 April to send away the Head of the Russian Embassy in Vilnius and the staff of the Russian Consulate General in Klaipėda.

> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania considers this action by Russia as unjustified. It just demonstrates Russia's further political and diplomatic self-isolation.
>
> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs recalls that the Lithuanian Government took the decision to close the Russian Consulate General in Klaipėda in response to the continuing brutal military aggression against a sovereign state of Ukraine, the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine, as well as taking into account the generally destructive role of the Russian diplomatic service vis-à-vis Ukraine.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/foreign-ministrys-statement-on-russias-decision-to-close-lithuanias-consulate-general-in-st-petersburg>, visited on 15 January 2024)

7/7

On 31 August 2022 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania issued a statement that statements made by the *chargé d'affaires ad interim* of the Russian Embassy in Lithuania are incompatible with his diplomatic status:

> On 31 August, a representative of the Russian Embassy was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and was handed in a note of protest over the statements announced by the chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Russian Embassy in Lithuania Sergey Ryabokon that undermined the events of 13 January 1991 and cynically distorted historical facts.
>
> In addition, the representative was reminded that Article 41 of the Vienna Convention of 1961 on Diplomatic Relations affirms that it is the duty of all persons enjoying privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving state.

(Text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/regarding-the-statements-by-the-charge-daffaires-ad-interim-of-the-russian-embassy-in-lithuania-that-are-incompatible-with-his-diplomatic-status>, visited on 27 January 2024)

Part Thirteen: III.A. International Responsibility – Responsible Entities – States

13/1

On 30 March 2022, at the 49th session of the Human Rights Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, took part in an interactive dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, on the situation of human rights in Ukraine and indicated Russia's responsibility for aggression against Ukraine:

> "Russia is responsible for shedding the blood of thousands of innocent people and the destruction. Thus, we must investigate all human rights violations and alleged war crimes. The perpetrators must be held to account," Landsbergis said on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic states.

(Full text of is available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/at-the-un-human-rights-council-lithuanias-foreign-minister-demands-russias-accountability-for-human-rights-violations-in-ukraine-on-behalf-of-the-nordic-and-baltic-states->, visited on 17 March 2024)

13/2

On 5 April 2022, a Statement by the Nordic and Baltic countries at the UN Security Council briefing on Ukraine was made, indicating and naming Russia's responsibility for aggression against Ukraine:

> Forty-one days ago, on the evening of 23 February in New York, as the Council had gathered in this Chamber to discuss and urge the Russian Federation to refrain from threats and further aggression against Ukraine, including its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Russian Federation launched an unprovoked, unjustified and unlawful attack on Ukraine.
>
> It was, and remains, a war of choice. This choice was made by Russia in full knowledge of its violation of international law and the UN Charter as well as its catastrophic impact on Ukraine, particular of its civilians. It was also made in full awareness of the broader, global impact of the war – including on the most vulnerable countries and people. The Russian aggression – a war of choice – is now undermining the food security and development of countless nations around the world by driving up the cost of energy, fertilisers and staple foods, with the most vulnerable hit hardest.

The Russian Federation, together with its accomplice, Belarus, has continued its aggression in blatant disregard of the calls by the UN General Assembly, the Secretary-General as well as the legally binding order by the International Court of Justice.

This war is both cruel and unnecessary. It is systematically waged against civilians and civilian objects, turning living and thriving cities into ruins. The death toll of civilians, including children, recorded by the UN raises daily. But we know that the real figures of civilians killed and wounded are significantly higher. In forty-one days over 10 million people have been forced to flee their homes, over 4 million have left the country. Large numbers of those remaining, in particular in cities under Russian siege, are deprived of water, food, shelter, and medication. In addition, the Russian attacks have recklessly jeopardised the safety of nuclear power plants.

This is accompanied by reports of human rights violations in the Russian-controlled areas – about sexual and gender based violence against women and girls, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, abductions, enforced disappearances, as well as deportations – bringing echoes of the century past. The aggression has led to attacks against journalists who have a critical role in providing information during a conflict, including the death of Mantas Kvedaravičius, a documentary filmmaker from Lithuania, who was killed on 2 April in Mariupol, where he was documenting Russia's atrocities.

We cannot look aside from the haunting images of the atrocities committed by the Russian forces emerging from Bucha, the liberated areas around Kyiv and other regions, which show the brutal face of this war of aggression Russia is waging against Ukraine and its people. We condemn in the strongest terms the reported massacres, torture and sexual violence, including rape, used against civilians. In the areas they held, the Russian forces destroyed homes, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructure, and reportedly left areas mined. The responsibility for these actions, which show how far Russia is willing to go in pursuing its unlawful objectives, lies with the Russian authorities, who were in effective control of these areas during their commission.

[…]

We call for accountability for all violations of international law, including the atrocities committed by the Russian forces in Bucha and other areas. This includes holding accountable the perpetrators of these violations as well as the responsible government officials and military leaders. We welcome the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry by the

> UN Human Rights Council as well as the work under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism. In addition, all Nordic and Baltic countries have joined the referral of the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court. We fully support the efforts of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in conducting the investigation concerning allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We encourage UN member states to join the newly established Group of Friends of Accountability following the Aggression against Ukraine.

(Full text of is available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/statement-by-the-nordic-and-baltic-countries-at-the-un-security-council-briefing-on-ukraine>, visited on 17 March 2024)

13/3

On 2 May 2022, the Human Rights Council convened a special session on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression. The Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Ambassador Darius Stanulis, called the international community to seek full accountability for the atrocities in Ukraine, committed by Russia and its accomplice Belarus:

> The Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN Office and other International Organisations in Geneva Ambassador Darius Stanulis in his statement condemned Russia's use of torture, sexual exploitation, rape and other abuses, particularly against women and children as weapons of war. Russia has forcibly deported around half a million Ukrainians, including 180 000 children. "Lithuania strongly condemns the shameful Russian disinformation campaign to hide and falsify many of these facts" – underlined the Ambassador.
>
> As Russian aggression against Ukraine has far-reaching devastating global effects on food security, Lithuania urged Russia to unblock seaports and transport routes for grain exports and to avoid famine in other regions of the world.
>
> Ambassador Darius Staniulis called upon the international community to seek full accountability for all human rights violations, crimes against humanity and genocide in Ukraine, committed by Russia and its accomplice Belarus.

(Full text of is available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/ambassador-d-staniulis-the-international-community-must-seek-full-accountability-for-the-atrocities-in-ukraine-committed-by-russia-and-its-accomplice-belarus>, visited on 20 March 2024)

13/4

On 8 November 2022, the chief of Lithuania's diplomacy met with Andorra's Foreign Minister, who was visiting Lithuania, and stressed that the international community needed to step up its effort to deal with Russia's brutal aggression against Ukraine and to seek the Kremlin's accountability for international crimes:

> "The international community must continue to exert maximum pressure on Russia and its supporters, Belarus and other authoritarian regimes, thus sending a clear message that the crimes of war and aggression, and attempts to aid the aggressor will receive a response," Lithuania's Foreign Minister said.

(Full text of is available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-thanked-andorra-for-its-support-for-ukraine-the-international-community-must-continue-to-exert-maximum-pressure-on-russia>, visited on 4 February 2024)

Part Thirteen: III.D. International Responsibility – Responsible Entities – Individuals and Groups of Individuals (Including Corporations)

13/5

On 28 February 2024, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the initiative of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs to turn to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court over Russia's and Belarus's war crimes and crimes against humanity. The case is directed at the liability of specific individuals – namely the decision-takers from the regimes of Putin and Lukashenko.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-has-officially-turned-to-icc>, visited on 20 March 2024)

13/6

On 22 February 2022, a special informal meeting of EU foreign ministers on the situation in Ukraine was held in Paris, France, as Russia decided to recognize the independence of the two areas in Ukraine's Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts held by Russian-backed separatists, and to send troops to eastern Ukraine. The European Union unanimously agreed on a new package of sanctions against Russia in coordination with such partners as the U.S., the United Kingdom and Canada. The relevant text from the announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs reads as follows:

> Russia has breached the international agreements and commitments underpinning the path of dialogue and peaceful settlement of the conflict. Russia has also violated Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Russian troops have already been sent to Donbass. And maybe this is not the end. We must act now, in close coordination with our partners – the U.S., the United Kingdom and Canada deterring further escalation through our actions. Our response must be just as promised: swift, ruthless, and have severe consequences for Russia. Today, we agreed on sanctions targeting individuals and companies that have contributed to the recognition of the so-called DNR and LNR regions of Ukraine, but we also need to keep in mind the sectoral sanctions against Russia," said the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Gabrielius Landsbergis, who also called on partners to start preparing a new package of sectoral sanctions, if the situation escalated.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-gabrielius-landsbergis-eu-unanimously-approved-new-sanctions-against-russia>, visited on 13 March 2024)

13/7

On 20 December 2022, during the meeting between Lithuania's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Spain's Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, José Manuel Albares Bueno, and the President of the Congress of Deputies, Meritxell Batet Lamaña, the heads of Lithuania and Spain's diplomacy stressed the need to ensure the accountability of Russian leaders for the aggression against Ukraine.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-stereotypes-dictated-by-geography-are-falling>, visited on 18 March 2024)

Part Fourteen: 11.G.2. Peaceful Settlement of Disputes – Means of Settlement – Judicial Settlement – Other Courts and Tribunals

14/1

On 22 September 2022, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, spoke on behalf of the Baltic States at the United Nations Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine and called for a special tribunal to address the crime of Russia's aggression against Ukraine to be established. The relevant parts are as follow:

> The major reason we meet today is that the permanent member of the Security Council, Russia, is openly threatening security and the rules-based global order – the very cause this Council was created for.
>
> […]
>
> Day by day Russia defies the principles of the United Nations and has already become a synonym of brutality, state-run terrorism and genocide.
>
> […]
>
> Condemnation alone will not end these crimes.
>
> It is imperative that the international organisations use all of their resources to bring Russia's atrocities to the public light and on the charge-sheets of international justice.
>
> It is our duty to bring Putin to justice.
>
> The special tribunal to address the crime of Russia's aggression against Ukraine must be established.

(Full text is available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/minister-of-foreign-affairs-of-lithuania-gabrielius-landsbergis-spoke-on-behalf-of-the-baltic-states-at-the-united-nations-security-council-meeting>, visited on 2 April 2024)

14/2

On October 16 2022, the foreign ministers for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania issued a joint statement calling on the EU, together with international partners, to help Ukraine establish a Special Tribunal for Russian and Belarusian political and military leaders:

> Ahead of EU discussions on Russia's aggression against Ukraine, we, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, are calling for a European Union's effort in support of Ukraine's aim to ensure Russia's accountability for its aggression against Ukraine.

> The rules-based international order, which we all strive to defend, cannot survive if there is impunity for the deeds that violate it most blatantly – genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crime of aggression.
>
> Recent deliberate targeting of civilian homes, schools and playgrounds, as well as civilian infrastructures across Ukraine is just the latest episode of Russia's unprovoked terror campaign against Ukrainian people. As Russia's brutal assault against Ukraine continues, the EU must act to ensure that seeking justice and accountability for Russia's horrific crimes in Ukraine is at the center of our policy.
>
> We must continue supporting the ongoing investigations by Ukraine, a number of other states, as well as the International Criminal Court since it plays a key role in collecting evidential materials, identifying and punishing those responsible for the war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine.
>
> Our efforts, however, must not end there.
>
> Currently there is no international court or tribunal that could bring Russia's top political and military leadership to account for committing the crime of aggression against Ukraine. The Special Tribunal for the Punishment of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine has to be established to fill this jurisdictional loophole. The EU together with our partners must be at the center of this effort.
>
> Establishment of the Special Tribunal would complement the role of the ICC. While the ICC would prosecute individuals for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, the Special Tribunal's core responsibility would be the crime of aggression.
>
> The key masterminds, instigators and facilitators of this murderous aggression cannot escape justice simply because of the gap in the international criminal jurisdiction.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/theministers-of-estonia-latvia-and-lithuania-call-to-establish-a-special-tribunal-to-investigate-the-crime-of-russias-aggression>, visited on 24 January 2024)

14/3

On 22 November 2022, during the visit of the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tobias Billström, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania raised the issue of establishing the Special Tribunal for investigating the crime of aggression against Ukraine. The relevant text is as follows:

> When speaking about the issue of ensuring Russia's accountability, Landsbergis underlined that Lithuania and Sweden belonged to a nucleus formed by the countries that aimed to help Ukraine set up a Special Tribunal to prosecute the crime of aggression. The Special Tribunal would fill the existing jurisdictional loophole and judge the top leadership of Russia for the dire consequences of the war against Ukraine.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanian-and-swedish-foreign-ministers-meeting-in-vilnius-focuses-on-regional-security-and-support-for-ukraine-in-the-face-of-russian-aggression>, visited on 4 March 2024)

14/4

On 28 November 2022, during the visit of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden in Kyiv, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania called for the necessity of the Special Tribunal for investigating the crime of aggression against Ukraine:

> "Our first meetings in Kyiv – with the CEO of UkrEnergo and the Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine – send a clear signal about Ukraine's priorities at the moment. I do hope that the countries still undecided about the necessity of the Special Tribunal for investigating the crime of aggression will consider the Ukrainian request," the Lithuanian Foreign minister Landsbergis noted.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/foreign-minister-landsbergis-visits-kyiv-together-with-his-counterparts-from-seven-european-countries >, visited on 4 March 2024)

14/5

During the twenty-first session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which was held in The Hague on 5–10 December 2022 and which brought representatives from 123 states parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and observers from some invited states, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania called for a special tribunal to ensure the accountability of Russian and Belarusian political and military leaders. The relevant text from the announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reads as follows:

> 'The crime of aggression is a primary source of evil and violations of international law from which many others emerge. Thus, only a Special Tribunal can fill the existing gaps in the law," Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabrielius Landsbergis noted in his statement prerecorded in Kyiv. Landsbergis also emphasised the Court's unique role in investigating war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. According to Lithuania's Foreign Minister, the international community must spare no effort to ensure full accountability for Russian and Belarusian political and military leaders.
>
> "World peace will be an impossible dream if major political and military leaders and initiators of aggression against Ukraine escape justice and go unpunished. This would only encourage Russia and other aggressors to undermine the rules-based international order and would pose a greater threat to all of us," Landsbergis said.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-the-crime-of-aggression-is-a-primary-source-of-evil-and-violations-of-international-law-from-which-many-others-emerge-thus-only-a-special-tribunal-can-fill-the-existing-gaps-in-the-law>, visited on 15 January 2024)

14/6

On 9 December 2022, during the meeting between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, with the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria, Alexander Schallenberg, the Lithuanian Minister for Foreign Affairs summed the need for a special tribunal to hold Russia's leaders accountable. The relevant text from the announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reads as follows:

> Russia's aggression will never stop if the European security architecture is shaped in the face of Russia's legitimate interests, not Ukraine's legitimate interests. A Special Tribunal to prosecute the crime of aggression is a necessary step for the international community toward ensuring that Russia is held accountable for the brutal atrocities of its leaders and soldiers. At the same time, it would be an effective deterrent for other authoritarian regimes.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-austria-was-one-of-the-first-countries-to-support-lithuania-when-it-faced-migratory-pressures-from-the-lukashenka-regime-and-today-our-unity-helps-fight-authoritarian-regimes>, visited on 18 March 2024)

14/7

On 12 December 2022 during the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union (EU) and the meeting of the EU-Eastern Partnership Foreign Ministers, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, called for a special tribunal to hold Russia's leaders accountable. The relevant text from the announcement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reads as follows:

> The International Criminal Court is doing a tremendous job of gathering evidence of Russian war crimes in Ukraine; nevertheless, we must remain open. Only a Special Tribunal can fill the loopholes in international law and hold Russia's leaders to account for the crime of aggression.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-christmas-is-coming-which-should-lead-to-a-breakthrough-in-support-for-ukraine-not-fatigue>, visited on 18 March 2024)

Part Fourteen: 11.1. Peaceful Settlement of Disputes – Means of Settlement – Other Means of Settlement

14/8

On 3 March 2022, 45 states of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including Lithuania, invoked one of the OSCE's Human Dimension instruments – the Moscow Mechanism. The relevant text of the announcement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reads as follows:

> The Mechanism aims to invite a mission of experts to assess possible violations of human rights and humanitarian law, also possible war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed by Russia following its military aggression, enabled by Belarus, against the people of Ukraine, which began on February 24. The experts will be mandated to present all information gathered on established war crimes and crimes against humanity to relevant accountability mechanisms, as well as national, regional, or international courts or tribunals that have, or may in future have jurisdiction.

> The countries invoking this OSCE's Human Dimension instrument expressed their full support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine.
>
> In support of Ukraine, all member states of the European Union, including Lithuania, joined the initiative, as did Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/moscow-mechanism-invoked-at-the-osce-permanent-council-to-assess-war-crimes-and-crimes-against-humanity-committed-after-russian-invasion-of-ukraine>, visited on 8 March 2024).

Part Sixteen: 1. Use of Force – Prohibition of the Use of Force

16/1

On 24 February 2022, a joint statement by the Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian Foreign Ministers in support of Ukraine and against aggression of Russian Federation was made:

> We, the Foreign Ministers of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia, condemn Russia's open large-scale aggression against an independent, peaceful, and democratic state of Ukraine in the strongest possible terms.
>
> This unacceptable act of aggression is a blatant violation of international law, of all civilized norms. It is also a crime against the people of Ukraine. The entire international community must firmly condemn Russia's aggression and impose the toughest possible sanctions in response to such outrageous acts, including disconnecting Russian banks from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).
>
> Furthermore, Russia must be isolated politically.
>
> We reaffirm our unwavering support for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We must continue providing political, economic, financial, humanitarian, and other assistance, including weapons, ammunition, and other defensive military equipment to Ukraine against Russia. At this most difficult time, we stand united with the people of Ukraine.

> Dear Ukrainian friends, you have our full support. We stand ready to work together to bring the perpetrators of this heinous attack to justice. Slava Ukraini!

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-statement-by-latvian-estonian-lithuanian-foreign-ministers-in-support-of-ukraine>, visited on 16 February 2024)

16/2

On 2 March 2022, the Nordic and Baltic Foreign Ministers adopted a joint statement, condemning in the strongest terms, the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation:

> The NB8 condemn in the strongest terms possible the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. We are outraged by indiscriminate attacks on civilians in this unlawful and immoral war.
>
> We are struck with a profound sense of injustice and a profound sympathy with the Ukrainian people who are fighting for their country, their cities, their homes, their families, their lives.
>
> Russia's aggression and brutal armed attack is in clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. These actions gravely violate international law, including the principles of the UN charter.
>
> The devastating consequences of this aggression – not only for Europe, but globally – cannot be overstated. Russian aggression against Ukraine could have global and long-term negative consequences for the existing rules-based international order. Russia bears full responsibility for this military aggression and all the destruction and loss of life it has caused.
>
> Nordic-Baltic countries have been delivering financial, humanitarian and military assistance to the people of Ukraine. Every country should look at how to support Ukraine further.
>
> We strongly demand Russia to stop this senseless war. We call for immediate cease-fire. We urge Russia to withdraw all its forces from Ukraine without preconditions. We also condemn the involvement of Belarus in the aggression against Ukraine and call on it to refrain from such action and to abide by international law.
>
> Russia must respect international humanitarian law. Civilians must be protected. We must make sure that every civilian death, every war crime, will be recorded and we will ensure that the perpetrators of these

heinous crimes are held accountable and brought to justice. The aggressors will be held to account.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-statement-of-nordic-baltic-foreign-ministers>, visited on 24 February 2024)

16/3

On 3 March 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, on behalf of the NB8 countries, presented a statement on Russia's aggression against Ukraine at the General Assembly "General Assembly Emergency Special Session on Ukraine" in New York. The relevant parts of the text announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania is as follows:

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the eight Nordic-Baltic countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden and my own country Lithuania. We also align with the EU-statement.

On 2nd March, 141 countries voted for the resolution entitled "Aggression against Ukraine."

We deplored in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter and demanded that the Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and to refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against any Member State.

We also demanded that the Russian Federation immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Instead, Russia has continued the war against Ukraine, causing extensive human suffering and many civilian casualties, including those of children. The devastating humanitarian consequences and rapidly deteriorating situation are obvious. When millions of people globally stand on the brink of famine, we are deeply worried about the impact of the invasion and the risk of increased food insecurity.

This is an unprovoked act of aggression and Russia – together with its accomplice, Belarus – are responsible for the tremendous suffering inflicted upon the Ukrainian people. Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine grossly violates international law and the principles of the UN Charter and undermines European and global peace and security.

All parties in armed conflict must comply with international law, including international humanitarian law, and ensure protection of civilians. In this respect, Russia's disregard for international humanitarian law (IHL) and attacks against civilian populations and civilian infrastructure are appalling. Civilians must not be targeted. Russian forces' attacks on health care and schools are serious violations of IHL and must cease immediately.

Since the General Assembly passed its resolution, the list of alleged war crimes and reported atrocities have mounted.

Russia has bombed civilian infrastructure and objects, including hospitals, medical facilities, schools, residential buildings and churches. Russia has continued shelling peaceful, densely populated cities. Several, like Volnovakha and Mariupol, have been almost completely destroyed.

According to reliable sources, Russia is not only using cluster munitions, but also thermobaric and phosphorous bombs in populated areas.

These are not standalone cases, but an illustration of the systematic manner in which Russia is waging its war on Ukraine. These inhuman and immoral actions embody Russia's disregard for international law, including international humanitarian law, and the principles upon which the UN is based.

More than 10 million people – nearly one quarter of the population of Ukraine – have been forced to flee their homes. 3.6 million people left Ukraine, mostly women and children. We commend those neighbouring countries that have kept their borders open to those seeking protection outside Ukraine, without discrimination.

Current obstructions of humanitarian access and rapidly changing frontlines hinder the delivery of desperately needed humanitarian assistance. Russia also has an obligation to allow rapid, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian actors to reach all those in need of lifesaving assistance including food, water, healthcare, protection, and shelter, wherever they are. Safe, voluntary, passage for civilians and humanitarian actors must be guaranteed and respected, including through the opening of humanitarian corridors.

Last week, the International Court of Justice explicitly ordered Russia to stop its so-called "military operation". An investigation has also been opened by the ICC prosecutor.

There will be no impunity for violations of international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. All perpetrators must be brought to justice. This is necessary to ensure justice for victims, but also to prevent and deter future violations. Ensuring accountability is

> an integral part of our obligation to respect and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law.
>
> Mr. President,
>
> We encourage all UN member states to vote for the resolution L.2 on the humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine. In doing so, we send a clear message to Russia.
>
> We demand respect for international law, including international humanitarian law.
>
> We demand that every effort is taken to protect civilians at all times wherever they may be.
>
> We demand safe, timely and unhindered access for humanitarian assistance, and to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel.
>
> We demand safe humanitarian passage for those who decide to leave voluntarily and protection for those who decide to stay. Agreements for safe humanitarian passage must be respected fully.
>
> But first and foremost, we demand that Russia ends this war now. Russia, with Belarus as an accomplice, bears the sole responsibility for the war and the humanitarian crisis.
>
> I wish to conclude by expressing our admiration and deep solidarity with the people of Ukraine who are fighting, not only for their country, but for universal, democratic values. Your courage is truly an inspiration for us all. We stand with you.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/statement-on-behalf-of-the-nb8-countries-at-the-general-assemblygeneral-assembly-emergency-special-session-on-ukraine>, visited on 3 March 2024)

16/4

On 20 April 2022, a joint statement of the Foreign Ministers for Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Germany in support of Ukraine and against the aggression of the Russian Federation was made:

> The Foreign Ministers of Estonia, Germany, Latvia and Lithuania strongly condemn Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, which has resulted in thousands of civilian casualties. The Ministers welcome the ongoing ICC investigation into alleged war crimes. All perpetrators have to be brought to justice. Russia's war of aggression and the gross and systematic human rights violations against the Ukrainian people have led to massive sanctions of the European

> Union against Russia, Russia's suspension from the UN's Human Rights Council and the expulsion from the Council of Europe.
>
> We reiterate our call on Russia to immediately cease its aggression, withdraw its troops from Ukraine and to fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, and to uphold human rights. We reaffirm our unwavering support to Ukraine´s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-statement-of-the-foreign-ministers-of-lithuania-latvia-estonia-and-germany>, visited on 3 March 2024)

16/5

On 30 June 2022, a Joint Statement on Improving Global Road Safety, on the situation of road safety in Ukraine stemming from Russian aggression, was presented at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly, where the aggression by Russia against Ukraine was condemned:

> We condemn the unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which flagrantly violates international law, including the UN Charter. Since the first day of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the national road infrastructure and the road safety have sustained heavy damage. According to the assessment by the Government of Ukraine, more than 23,000 km of road infrastructure and 300 bridges have been destroyed or damaged, since 24 February 2022. The scale of destruction continues to grow on a daily basis.
>
> In line with UNGA resolutions ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 and ES-11/2 of 24 March 2022, we urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease its military aggression against Ukraine and withdraw immediately, completely and unconditionally all its forces from Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters. We also condemn the complicity of the authorities of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine.
>
> In full support and solidarity with Ukraine and its people, we condemn any indiscriminate shelling and use of explosive weapons by the Russia's forces in Ukraine that causes damage to and destroys critical civilian infrastructure, including roads, bridges, fuel warehouses and vehicles, indispensable for the delivery of essential services. Likewise, we

> firmly condemn the destroying civilian vehicles and humanitarian convoys, which violates international humanitarian law and results in killings, casualties and property destruction.
>
> We are alarmed by the fact that Russia's forces repeatedly blocked traffic of civilian vehicles out of Russia-controlled and conflict-affected territories to safe places. We are equally concerned by reports of fatal traffic accidents caused by Russian soldiers in Russia-controlled territories. All those responsible for such accidents must be held accountable.
>
> We stress with deep concern that the Russian military aggression against Ukraine has already had an extremely negative impact on road safety, undermining Ukraine's efforts to reach the road-safety-related targets of the 2030 Agenda, and might also slow improvement in the near future elsewhere.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-statement-at-the-high-level-meeting-of-the-general-assembly-on-improving-global-road-safety-on-the-situation-of-road-safety-in-ukraine-stemming-from-the-russian-aggression>, visited on 23 March 2024)

16/6

On 15 July 2022, the Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania in Geneva, Mr. Arūnas Jievaltas, made a statement on behalf of the Lithuanian delegation at the 63rd session of the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization, where he strongly condemned Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine.
(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-voiced-support-for-ukraine-at-the-general-assembly-of-the-world-intellectual-property-organization-1>, visited on 12 March 2024)

16/7

[*1/1*]

16/8

On 11 October 2022, Lithuania presented a statement at the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee 77th Session in New York, condemning Russia's aggression against Ukraine and raising

concerns on nuclear threats. The relevant parts of the text announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania is as follows:

> Mr. Chairman,
>
> At the outset I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee and to assure you of Lithuania's cooperation and support.
>
> Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. In our national capacity, I would like to stress the following.
>
> We reiterate our condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Russia's deliberate and unprovoked war. Such unjustified invasion of its peaceful neighbour has grossly violated international law, undermined global security and even shook the foundations upon which the United Nations were built. We demand that Russia immediately and unconditionally ceases its military actions and withdraws all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine. Lithuania strongly condemns illegal referenda, which took place under military coercion. The results of such actions are null and void and we will not recognise them. We also condemn Belarus for its support to the Russian aggression against Ukraine and reiterate our call on Belarusian authorities to stop enabling the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations.
>
> Mr. Chairman,
>
> We resolutely condemn indiscriminate and deliberate missile attacks on residential areas, power stations, railways, trade centers and bridges in Ukrainian cities launched by Russia. At present, Russia's military actions are threatening to cause yet another – nuclear – disaster. The occupation of the Zaporizhzhya NPP by the Russian military forces and the presence of Russian military equipment, as well as the Rosatom personnel on site undermines its security, increases the risk of a nuclear disaster and puts the operating staff under immense pressure. Shelling and occupying of Ukraine's nuclear facilities, or using them as a shelter is unprecedented. We are deeply concerned that each of the seven indispensable pillars outlined by the IAEA Director General, has been compromised as a result of the Russian aggression. Lithuania fully supports the Director General's recommendation to establish urgently a Nuclear Safety and Security Protection Zone around the Zaporizhzhya NPP. But recent shelling on the South Ukraine NPP shows that it is not enough. The only sustainable solution for nuclear safety is the unconditional withdrawal of all Russian armed forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia's aggressive and irresponsible nuclear rhetoric is unacceptable and directly contradicts Russia's role as a P5 state, as well as the commitment it made in the P5 Leaders' Statement on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races last January. Russia has also violated the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, under which the nuclear weapon States reaffirmed their commitment to respect the independence, sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine.

The same memorandum also gave security assurances to Belarus after it declared its territory nuclear-free in 1990 in the Declaration on State Sovereignty and acceded to the NPT as a non-nuclear State Party in 1992. Therefore, we are very concerned by recent constitutional amendments and irresponsible public statements made by Belarus expressing its readiness to host Russia's nuclear weapons on its territory. This would run contrary to the international obligations by Belarus under NPT as a non-nuclear state.

Mr. Chairman,

Lithuania regrets that the 10th Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) was not able to adopt its final outcome document due to Russia blocking consensus. However, we continue to support the NPT as a cornerstone for global nuclear disarmament. Our ultimate goal remains achieving a world without nuclear weapons by implementing all elements of the NPT, including Article VI, building on the principles of effectiveness, verification and undiminished security for all.

Before the Russian aggression against Ukraine, there were some welcome developments, including the agreement reached between the United States and the Russian Federation to extend the New START Treaty for an additional five years. We recognise that the United States is ready to expeditiously negotiate a new arms control framework to replace the New START when it expires in 2026. However, negotiations require a willing partner operating in good faith, which is not the case of the Russian Federation today. Lithuania remains convinced that future arms control arrangements should include all types of nuclear weapons. We also welcome the transparency efforts by some nuclear weapon states to report on their nuclear weapons stockpile. In this regard, we call on China, who is increasing its nuclear weapon capabilities, to demonstrate responsibility and join nuclear arms control talks.

Mr. Chairman,

> As part of its aggression against Ukraine, Russia has also engaged in a campaign of disinformation and state-controlled propaganda in spreading unsubstantiated and unfounded allegations against Ukraine and other countries regarding biological and chemical weapons while risking exposure of the Ukrainian population to toxic chemicals through their deliberate attacks against civilian industrial facilities. Let us recall that Russia has a track record in the use of chemical weapons as well as in sowing disinformation which seeks to undermine the international rules-based order. Lithuania strongly supports the UN Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, which is the only independent international instrument for investigating alleged use of biological weapons.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations in New York, <https://mission-un-ny.mfa.lt/missionny/en/news/statement-by-lithuania-at-the-general-debate-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly-first-committee-77th-session>, visited on 11 March 2024)

Part Seventeen: I.B.2. The Law of Armed Conflict and International Humanitarian Law – International Armed Conflict – The Law of International Armed Conflict – The Commencement of International Armed Conflict and Its Effects (e.g. Diplomatic and Consular Relations, Treaties, Private Property, Nationality, Trading with the Enemy and *locus standi personae in judicio*)

17/1

On 24 February 2022, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania announced an act of solidarity with the people of Ukraine who have been facing Russia's military aggression, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania suspending the issuance of visas to citizens of the Russian Federation:
(Text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-suspends-the-issuance-of-visas-to-russian-citizens>, visited on 11 March 2024)

17/2

On 4 April 2022, Lithuania sent the Russian ambassador away and decided to lower the level of diplomatic representation with Russia in response to Russian crimes in Ukraine:

> On 4 April 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania announced its decision to lower the level of diplomatic representation with the Russian Federation – the ambassador of Russia to Lithuania will have to leave the country. Given the overall unconstructive role of the Russian diplomatic service, the Lithuanian Government has also decided to close the Consulate General in Klaipėda in relation to the aggression against Ukraine. These decisions were delivered to representatives of the Russian Embassy in Vilnius, who were summoned to the Foreign Ministry.
>
> The Lithuanian Ambassador in Moscow will return to Lithuania in the near future.
>
> "Lithuania is lowering the level of diplomatic representation with Russia, this way expressing its full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, who are suffering from Russia's unprecedented aggression," said Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabriel Landsbergis. The Minister stressed that Lithuania condemns in the strongest possible terms the atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces in various occupied Ukrainian cities, including the horrific massacres in Bucha and other Ukrainian cities, which will undoubtedly be added to the list of atrocities committed on European territory.
>
> "What the world has seen in Bucha, unfortunately, may only be the beginning. With other liberated cities, we may see more horrific examples of war crimes. All war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine will not be forgotten," the Minister said.
>
> Lithuania supports all measures to ensure that Russian armed forces are held accountable for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Ukraine.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-statement-of-foreign-ministers-of-lithuania-and-ukraine>, visited on 14 March 2024)

17/3

On 7 April 2022, during the 214th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, sent a letter to the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, asking to take all possible action within her mandate in order to deprive Russia of holding and chairing the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Kazan, in June 2022, while Russia is waging war against Ukraine.

(Text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-gabrielius-landsbergis-it-would-be-cynically-disrespectful-to-victims-in-ukraine-to-hold-the-unesco-world-heritage-committees-session-in-russia->, visited on 11 March 2024)

17/4

On 21 June 2022, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania announced that due to Russia's aggression, Nigeria has requested to relocate its embassy from Ukraine to Vilnius:
(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/nigerias-embassy-to-move-to-vilnius>, visited on 16 March 2024)

Part Seventeen: I.B.7. The Law of Armed Conflict and International Humanitarian Law – International Armed Conflict – The Law of International Armed Conflict – International Humanitarian Law

17/5

On 10 October 2022, Lithuania's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned Russia's attacks on civilians in Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities in violation of international humanitarian law:

> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania strongly condemns attacks by Russia's armed forces on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, targeting innocent civilians and civilian infrastructure.
>
> The attack of 9 October on the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia that killed 20 people and missile attacks that hit Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Dnipro, Lviv, Khmelnytskyi and other cities on 10 October extend a list of Russia's war crimes. Russia must be held accountable for violations of international law.
>
> Strikes by Russian military forces on Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure constitute gross violations of international humanitarian law and of the obligation to protect civilians. Russia's terror tactics show the regime's desperation.
>
> We call on Russia to immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and to withdraw its military forces from all of Ukraine. In the face of this brutality, Ukraine needs maximum support, including military, from the international community and partners to defend its population. Together

> with our partners, we will spare no effort to support Ukraine and its people in their fight for a free, sovereign, and democratic future of their country.

(Text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-ministry-strongly-condemns-russias-attacks-on-civilians-in-kyiv-and-other-ukrainian-cities>, visited on 14 March 2024)

Part Seventeen: I.B.8. The Law of Armed Conflict and International Humanitarian Law – International Armed Conflict – The Law of International Armed Conflict – Belligerent Occupation

17/6

On 14 September 2021, the Lithuanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gabrielius Landsbergis, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence of Ireland, Simon Coveney, visited Odesa (Ukraine), where they met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba. At the meeting, G. Landsbergis emphasized the necessity to ensure the safety of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant in order to avoid a nuclear catastrophe in Europe and the need for complete expulsion of the Russian occupation forces, with the help of the international community and the coalition of the willing. (Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanian-foreign-minister-landsbergis-during-his-visit-in-odesaonly-complete-expulsion-of-russians-from-zaporizhzhia-may-secure-the-nuclear-safety-in-europe>, visited on 9 February 2024)

17/7

On 26 February 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania issued the following statement on the eighth anniversary of the occupation of Crimea:

> On 26 February, on the eighth anniversary of the Day of Resistance to the Occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania strongly condemns Russia's actions and the continued violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and demands the immediate cessation of military actions and the immediate withdrawal of the Russian troops from the territory of sovereign Ukraine.

> The recent brutal invasion of a neighbouring peaceful, sovereign and democratic Ukraine by Russia is a flagrant violation of the norms of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN), the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris.
>
> We strongly condemn Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol eight years ago in flagrant violation of international law. We condemn the systematic repression and suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the annexed Crimea and the repressions against human rights defenders, journalists, representatives of civil society, especially the Crimean Tatars, and the banning of the activities of the Medjlis. We call for the release of illegally imprisoned Ukrainian citizens, termination of the militarisation of the peninsula and free navigation in the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait.
>
> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania welcomes the Joint Declaration adopted at the First Summit of the International Crimea Platform on 23 August 2021 and supports its implementation.
>
> Lithuania reaffirms its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within the borders recognised by the international community. Lithuania will continue to consistently pursue its policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, and we will ensure that the European Union and other international sanctions imposed on Russia continue until Russia withdraws from all illegally occupied territories of Ukraine.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/statement-by-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-of-lithuania-on-the-eighth-anniversary-of-the-occupation-of-crimea>, visited on 16 February 2024)

17/8

On 30 September 2022, a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the illegal annexation by Russia of the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia was issued:

> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania strongly condemns Russia's illegal decision to annex the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, parts of which are under temporary Russian occupation, announced today, on 30 September 2022 by the President of Russia.

> This is another attempt by Russia to redraw the internationally recognised Ukrainian borders by force and to validate the illegitimate control over the Ukrainian territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, which is a blatant violation of international law, Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, that is why it is null and void, has no legal force and will not be recognised, nor will we ever recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea.
>
> Lithuania as well as the international community does not recognise pseudo "referenda" in the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia since their rigged results that served as a pretext for the Russian annexation do not represent the will of Ukrainian people who are resolute in resisting the Russian occupation.
>
> Lithuania calls on the international community to impose tighter sanctions on Russia for holding illegal pseudo "referenda" on the occupied territories of Ukraine and for their annexation and to bring active participants in this illegal exercise to justice.
>
> We insist that Russia immediately stops its aggression in Ukraine and withdraws its armed forces from the whole Ukrainian territory. Together with our partners, we will continue using every measure to support Ukraine and its people in their fight for freedom and the democratic future of their country.

(The text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/statement-by-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-on-illegal-annexation-by-russia-of-the-ukrainian-regions-of-donetsk-kherson-luhansk-and-zaporizhzhia>, visited on 19 February 2024)

17/9

On 29 November 2022, a joint statement by the Foreign Ministers for Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Ukraine was issued supporting Ukraine and condemning Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the annexation of its territories:

> We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Ukraine, strongly condemn the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine that has caused enormous suffering to the Ukrainian people. It has also undermined security and stability in Europe and represents a serious attack on our rules based international order.

We stand in full solidarity with Ukraine. We will never recognize the illegal attempted annexation of Ukraine's territories, including Crimea. We reaffirm our joint efforts to further strengthen the activities within the International Crimea Platform aimed at achieving the de-occupation of Crimea. Ukraine has the inherent right to self-defence to ensure its independence and sovereignty and restore its territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. Russia must stop its aggression and withdraw its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, the Nordic and Baltic states have provided substantial political, economic, military and humanitarian support to Ukraine. We will continue working together in providing political and practical support to ensure Ukraine's ability to defend its independence and territorial integrity.

Russia's aggression has caused immense suffering to the people of Ukraine. It has triggered a humanitarian catastrophe and several million people have been displaced. Russia alone bears responsibility for this. States knowingly aiding or assisting another State in the commission of internationally wrongful acts bear international responsibility for doing so. We condemn in the strongest terms Russia's attacks against civilians and critical infrastructure, including energy facilities, aiming at terrorising the civilian population. These attacks on civilians constitute war crimes. Russia must cease these actions immediately. We deem it important to continue providing international support aimed at improving Ukraine's air defence capabilities, thus enabling the protection of Ukraine's civilian infrastructure against Russia's inhumane attacks.

We call on the Russian Federation to fulfil its obligations in accordance with international humanitarian law. We urge Russia to release Ukrainian civilians illegally deported and detained under political pretext as well as those taken hostage during the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. We emphasise the need to ensure humanitarian access to protect lives, rights and dignity of victims of armed conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law. In this regard access of humanitarian actors to people in need must be provided.

We firmly reject Russia`s irresponsible and highly provocative rhetoric on nuclear weapons. We strongly condemn the continuous occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and relentless attacks against civil nuclear facilities in Ukraine. These attacks are in gross violation of international law and pose a direct threat to nuclear safety and security.

We agree on the need to continue to impose economic costs on Russia and on other countries, individuals or entities providing support for

Moscow's war of aggression. We reiterate the necessity to strengthen sanctions on Russia and to ensure that the measures are strong and efficient. Russia's main export revenues must be cut off, so that they are no longer able to fuel its war against Ukraine. We should continue to raise the cost for Russia until the very last Russian soldier has left the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine and until Russian aggression has stopped.

We emphasize the importance of limiting the issuance of Schengen and national visas of Russian citizens into the European Union.

The suffering inflicted by Russia on the Ukrainian people is unprecedented and we welcome efforts to ensure full accountability for those responsible for the crime of aggression against Ukraine and for perpetrators of war crimes and other atrocities during the war. The sovereignty and equality of all the states are under threat unless we respond decisively to Russia's aggression. We support the ongoing accountability efforts, and note with interest the discussion on the establishment of an international tribunal for crime of aggression, which is the crime that is the source of all the other atrocities committed during the aggression in Ukraine.

We commit to providing further humanitarian aid and support Ukraine's winterisation efforts, in particular towards restoring Ukraine's energy infrastructure. In parallel, we will continue our efforts to support the reconstruction of destroyed Ukrainian infrastructure. We call on international community to support Ukraine's reconstruction, including exploring ways to do so with funds from Russia. We recall the UN General Assembly Resolution of November 14, 2022 ES-11/6 titled "Furtherance of Remedy and Reparation for Aggression against Ukraine" which established the need for an international mechanism for reparation for damage, loss or injury arising from the internationally wrongful acts of Russian Federation in or against Ukraine.

A strong, independent and prosperous Ukraine is essential for the future of European security. The sacrifice of the Ukrainian people for their European choice is unprecedented. We reaffirm our joint commitment and unwavering support to Ukraine's European integration and commend Ukraine's determination to ensure progress in implementing reforms necessary for further steps in its EU-accession process. We will seek ways to strengthen our partnership with Ukraine as it advances its Euro-Atlantic aspirations. We reiterate each country's sovereign right to choose their own security arrangements.

> We will make consistent efforts to support the proper functioning and further expansion of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the New Grain from Ukraine program to help countries in need.
>
> We express our readiness to support businesses in investing in Ukraine and support continuing the current trade liberalization measures for Ukraine. We are ready to further enhance our trade related support.
>
> We agree on the need to intensify cooperation in the domain of cybersecurity, digitalization, countering disinformation and various types of hybrid threats.
>
> This is part of our collective responsibility to make sure that justice, human rights and international law prevail. We will continue our close collaboration in ensuring strong political financial and military support to Ukraine for as long as it takes. We reiterate our demand for the immediate cessation of the military aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation as well as for the full, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its forces and military equipment from Ukraine's territory.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-statement-by-the-foreign-ministers-of-estonia-finland-iceland-latvia-lithuania-norway-sweden-and-ukraine>, visited on 19 February 2024)

Part Nineteen: I.A. Legal Aspects of International Relations and Cooperation in Particular Maters – General Economic and Financial Matters – Trade

19/1

On 14 January 2024, at the informal meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the European Union (Gymnich) in Brest, France, the Foreign Ministers discussed the EU's relationship with China and the EU's response to its unilateral use of economic and trade instruments for exerting political pressure:

> "To influence decisions taken by a sovereign state, China has not only used bilateral trade as a political tool for exerting pressure, but has also targeted both international supply chains and the EU, as a single market and a trade bloc. China exerts economic pressure on EU enterprises, trying to tell them with whom to develop trade and where to invest. At the same time, it is also a serious violation of international trade rules and its commitments to the World Trade Organisation," said Landsbergis.

> "China went one step too far by challenging the EU single market, therefore we must send a clear message that such actions will not be tolerated and seek a systematic response to China's aggressive policy. Firstly, the EU should, as soon as possible, agree on its new anti-coercion instrument, which would allow the bloc to deter the third countries that resort to trade limitations aiming to change the policies of the EU or its countries," said the Foreign Minister.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-gabrielius-landsbergis-eu-solidarity-is-themost-effective-tool-of-resistance-against-chinas-political-and-economic-pressure>, visited on 24 February 2024)

19/2

On 12 February 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania announced that the United States of America, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan and Taiwan submitted requests to join the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement consultations with China in a case that the EU has referred on China's economic pressure on Lithuania.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/like-minded-partners-show-unprecedented-support-to-lithuania-in-the-face-of-chinas-illegal-pressure>, visited on 4 March 2024)

19/3

On 7 December 2022, the European Commission announced that it had requested the establishment of a World Trade Organization panel for a trade dispute with China concerning the legality of the trade restrictions that China had introduced against Lithuanian and EU exports. The relevant part of the welcoming of such a request from Lithuania's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gabrielius Landsbergis, reads as follows:

> We welcome the European Commission's decision on behalf of the EU to request the WTO to establish a panel. This step sends another message to China: the EU will defend the single market and EU member states by all means against China's politically motivated economic coercion […].
>
> […]
>
> Illegal economic pressure, even if against just one EU member state, must be seen as an attack on the whole of the Union. Thus, the EU will protect its rights and use every possibility offered by international law.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-welcomes-the-european-unions-request-to-establish-a-wto-panel-against-china-its-an-essential-step-towards-the-prevention-of-economic-coercion-in-the-future>, visited on 5 January 2024)

Part Nineteen: II. Legal Aspects of International Relations and Co-operation in Particular Maters – Transport and Communications

19/4

On 18 August 2022 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania issued a position regarding the decision of China to impose sanctions on Agnė Vaiciukevičiūtė, the Vice-Minister of Transport and Communications of Lithuania, and to suspend cooperation with Lithuania in the field of transport:

> Today, on August 18, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania summoned Qu Baihua, Chargé d'Affaires of China, to protest against the decision of China to impose sanctions on Agnė Vaiciukevičiūtė, Vice-Minister of Transport and Communications of Lithuania, and to suspend cooperation with Lithuania in the field of transport.
>
> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented to the Chinese representative Lithuania's position that China's unilateral decision was unjustified, violated international law and Lithuania's sovereignty, and demanded to revoke those decisions.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-ministry-summons-the-charge-daffaires-of-china->, visited on 11 March 2024)

Part Nineteen: VI. Legal Aspects of International Relations and Co-operation in Particular Matters – Social and Health Matters

19/5

On 15 July 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made an announcement about the additional allocation of EUR 500,000 in humanitarian aid to help Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-vice-minister-adomenas-lithuania-allocates-eur-500000-in-humanitarian-aid-to-help-ukrainian-refugees-in-moldova>, visited on 13 March 2023)

19/6

On 29 July 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Lithuania had allocated EUR 200,000 for the International Committee of the Red Cross's (ICRC) humanitarian assistance activities in Ukraine.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-allocates-funds-for-icrcs-humanitarian-assistance-activities-in-ukraine>, visited on 29 February 2024)

19/7

On 3 November 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania made an announcement about the allocation of EUR 30,000 in humanitarian assistance to Pakistanis by transferring the funds to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies:
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-allocates-humanitarian-aid-to-people-affected-by-floods-in-pakistan>, visited on 15 March 2024)

19/8

On 6 December 2022, Lithuania announced Lithuania's pledge for 100,000 euros to the UNHCR's activities in Ukraine 2023.
(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-announced-its-pledge-to-unhcrs-2023-budget-1>, visited on 5 January 2024)

Part Nineteen: VIII. Legal Aspects of International Relations and Co-operation in Particular Matters – Legal Matters

19/9

On 1 December 2022, Lithuania's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gabrielius Landsbergis, attended the Ministerial Council of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Łódź, Poland and provided the following position at the Ministerial Council's plenary session:

> The OSCE was set up to ensure security on the European continent. Unfortunately, Russia is still terrorising not only Ukraine and its

> neighbouring countries but also the international organisations of which it is a member. Only zero tolerance for aggression, human rights violations, and Russia's genocide will help strengthen trust in the OSCE and make use of the organisation's tools to end Russia's barbaric actions on the warfield and against the people of Ukraine.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-only-zero-tolerance-for-aggression-human-rights-violations-and-russias-genocide-will-help-strengthen-trust-in-the-osce-and-other-international-organisations>, visited on 15 January 2024)

19/10

On 8 December 2022, Lithuania's Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on the ongoing Russian military aggression against Ukraine. The relevant part reads as follows:

> We have to decide whether the Helsinki Final Act principles are guidelines or rules. If we have committed to a set of rules, there should be no more ambiguity when these principles are violated. Either we stand by those principles, or we don't. If the tools are less comprehensive than we have thought, let us strengthen them. If there is not enough political will to act – let us build it. If states constantly abuse the consensus rule – let us figure the way out, too.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/foreign-minister-landsbergis-if-we-have-committed-to-a-set-of-rules-there-should-be-no-more-ambiguity-when-these-principles-are-violated-either-we-stand-by-those-principles-or-we-dont>>, visited on 12 February 2024)

Part Nineteen: IX. Legal Aspects of International Relations and Co-operation in Particular Matters – Military and Security Matters

19/11

On 13 January 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, attended the informal meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the European Union in Brest, France, where the security situation in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood and the EU's work on a Strategic Compass were discussed:

> "Due to Russia's aggressive policy, the situation in Eastern Europe remains extremely tense: Russia further amasses its troops near the border with Ukraine, the military conflict in eastern Ukraine continues. The country continues to violate international law, lays out new demands for the Euro-Atlantic community regarding the supposed threat to Russia's security, while security threats originate primarily from Russia," said Landsbergis. According to Lithuania's Foreign Minister, the Euro-Atlantic community must not succumb to Russia's blackmail and unjustified demands or give in to aggressive behaviour.
>
> "We have to finally learn the lessons of history that conceding to aggressive politics may only increase tensions and lead to more aggression," said the Foreign Minister.
>
> […]
>
> As regards the security situation in Ukraine, Lithuania's Foreign Minister agreed that no decisions should be taken without Ukraine. "The people of Ukraine won the battle for the European path back in 2014. They paid and are still paying a high price for their European choice. Thus, we can't slam the door on them," said Landsbergis. The EU must not only strengthen cooperation and dialogue with Ukraine in the field of security and defence, but also be ready to take strong political and economic measures, including individual sanctions, should Russia decide to move to military action.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-gabrielius-landsbergis-concessions-made-to-aggressive-politics-will-only-increase-tensions-and-aggression>, visited on 24 February 2024)

19/12

On 3 February 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, took part in a remote a meeting of Foreign Ministers in the Bucharest Nine (B9) format. The meeting was held at the initiative of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Poland and Romania to discuss the security situation on the eastern flank of NATO, the strengthening of support for Ukraine, as well as to coordinate positions, when countering Russia's aggressive posture and responding to the Kremlin's inadequate demands. The relevant part reads as follows:

> "As the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and as individual allies, we must do all the homework related to deterrence and defence, and get

> ready for all possible scenarios. Russia aims to undermine transatlantic unity, which is why we must remain united and speak with one voice to Russia," said Landsbergis.
>
> During the meeting, Lithuania's Foreign Minister also informed about Lithuania's support for Ukraine and encouraged participants to further strengthen Ukraine's capacity to defend itself. "Today, the provision of support for Ukraine is one of the key ways to reinforce deterrence," said Landsbergis.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-gabrielius-landsbergis-concessions-made-to-aggressive-politics-will-only-increase-tensions-and-aggression>, visited on 24 February 2024)

19/13

On 9 February 2022, in view of the lack of information on the Allied Resolution 2022 joint military exercise of the Armed Forces of Belarus and Russia, Lithuania, together with Latvia and Estonia, requested a detailed explanation of an unusual military build-up in the country from Belarus. The relevant part reads as follows:

> Lithuania took advantage of the opportunity offered by the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (Chapter III: Risk Reduction) of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to activate the Mechanism for Consultation and Co-operation as regards unusual Military Activities. The Baltic states have submitted questions to Belarus about the unusual troop build-up for exercises in the territory of Belarus, the military equipment used, the number of Russian and Belarusian soldiers participating, and the planned return to their usual deployment location. Belarus is obliged, under the terms of the Vienna Document, to answer by 11 February.
>
> "We urge Belarus to respect its international commitments and to provide information on the nature and scale of the military drills. Avoidance to transparently provide information on the military exercises and the deployment of Russian troops in Belarus, and so uphold the international commitments, raises serious concerns over aggressive intentions of Russia and Belarus," said the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Gabrielius Landsbergis.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuania-latvia-and-estonia-seek-from-belarus-a-detailed-explanation-for-an-unusual-military-build-up-in-this-country>, visited on 11 March 2024)

19/14

On 29–30 March 2022, in Vilnius, the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) State Secretaries discussed security challenges and strengthening regional cooperation. In particular, Russia's aggression against Ukraine was discussed. The relevant text reads as follows:

> "Today, Russia's military aggression against Ukraine poses a threat to the Baltic states, to our entire region and to Europe. Ukraine is not only fighting for its freedom and sovereignty, but is also defending European values and democratic principles, and the right of each state to self-determination. No state can stand by when aggression, crimes against humanity and the destruction of the international law-based global order is being used against a sovereign country. Ukraine needs greater political, military and economic support from democratic communities, while the perpetrators of the offensive must be subject to maximum sanctions. It is also necessary to support the Ukraine's aspirations for EU membership," said the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Raimundas Karoblis.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/in-vilnius-the-nordic-baltic-eight-nb8-state-secretaries-discussed-security-challenges-strengthening-regional-cooperation->, visited on 14 March 2024)

19/15

On 28 July 2022, a Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers for the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland and Ukraine on the second anniversary of the Lublin Triangle was issued emphasizing support for Ukraine in the ongoing aggression by Russia. The relevant part reads as follows:

> On the occasion of the second anniversary of the Lublin Triangle – a trilateral platform for political, economic and social cooperation between the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland and Ukraine –
>
> we, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the three states:
>
> [...]

Highlight the significant input of the Lublin Triangle into the efforts on consolidation of international support for Ukraine in its fight against unprovoked and unjustified war unleashed by the Russian Federation, which is threatening the whole rules-based world order. In this regard, we reiterate our call on the international community to set an ultimate victory over the aggressor as a clear joint goal.

Welcome active military and technical cooperation and express willingness to expand the collaboration between the armed forces of the three states, both in bilateral and trilateral formats, which will envisage exercises at the training camps of the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland as well as medical treatment and rehabilitation of military personnel of Ukraine's Armed Forces. Ukraine is grateful to the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland for providing military assistance, comprehensive humanitarian and financial support that are appreciated as a sincere expression of solidarity, true friendship and brotherhood.

Confirm our unwavering intention to work further on the introduction of restrictive measures against the Russian Federation until the full restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Urge the international community to introduce a full oil and gas embargo on Russia, expand individual sanctions against Russian elites and state-owned enterprises, as well as completely cut off Russia from the Western banking system. We note the importance of countering Russia's attempts to circumvent sanctions and the need to introduce restrictive measures against countries that help the Russian Federation to achieve that. We underscore the importance of transferring Russia's assets frozen abroad to Ukraine.

Emphasize the unanimity of the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland and Ukraine regarding the need to hold Russia accountable for the crime of aggression, for war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide committed on the territory of Ukraine.

(Full text in English is available at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/joint-statement-of-the-foreign-ministers-of-the-republic-of-lithuania-the-republic-of-poland-and-ukraine-on-the-second-anniversary-of-the-lublin-triangle->, visited on 14 March 2024)

19/16

On 15 September 2022, Lithuania's Foreign Minister Landsbergis and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia discussed regional security issues and expressed support for Ukraine against Russia's aggression. The relevant part reads as follows:

> "We have to consolidate international support for Ukraine, against which Russia has launched an unprovoked, unjustified war, thus challenging and threatening the whole rules-based global order. With Rinkevičs we agreed that in order to avoid a nuclear catastrophe in Europe, it was necessary to completely expel Russia's occupying forces. I am glad that here, in Riga, with the Latvian Foreign Minister, we share a common vision of how to fight the aggressor. This only shows once again that a strong bond of brotherhood between Lithuania and Latvia has formed," Landsbergis said after a working meeting.

(Full text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/lithuanias-foreign-minister-landsbergis-and-the-minister-of-foreign-affairs-of-latvia-discussed-regional-security-issues>, visited on 14 March 2024)

19/17

On 16 September 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Zbigniew Rau, who was visiting Vilnius, and discussed regional security, support for Ukraine, as well as sanctions against Russia and Belarus. The relevant part reads as follows:

> "We must continue to support Ukraine and work together to mobilize the support of the widest possible international community for the country that is defending itself against Russia's aggression. We also have to maintain a united, coordinated policy – expand sanctions on Russia and Belarus, and effectively implement them – working with other like-minded countries," Landsbergis said.

(Text available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/-in-vilnius-lithuanian-and-polish-foreign-ministers-discussed-support-for-ukraine>, visited on 14 March 2024)

19/18

On 11 November 2022, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, met with Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Annalena Baerbock, and discussed the intensifying economic relationship between Lithuania and Germany, the security situation in the region and Germany's commitment to permanently deploy a brigade. The relevant part reads as follows:

> "Germany's commitment to permanently deploy combat-ready rotational German brigade will strengthen the security in Lithuania and the region," the Lithuanian chief of diplomacy said at the meeting with minister Baerbock.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/minister-landsbergis-after-a-meeting-with-baerbock-germanys-commitment-to-permanently-deploy-combat-ready-rotational-german-brigade-will-strengthen-the-security-in-lithuania-and-the-region->, visited on 14 March 2024)

19/19

On 25 November 2022, during the visit of the Lithuanian Foreign Minister and the Norwegian Foreign Minister about the Norwegian troops to be deployed to NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battalion Battle Group in Lithuania, the representatives of the Norwegian Armed Forces and the Norwegian Intelligence Services briefed the ministers on the security situation in Europe and presented Norway's readiness to contribute to the security of Lithuania, in the region and on the entire European continent.

(Available in English at the Internet site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/news/foreign-minister-landsbergis-we-highly-appreciate-norways-commitment-to-stand-with-us-shoulder-to-shoulder-if-lithuania-needs-to-be-defended>, visited on 7 March 2024)

Appendices

Annex 1.A. Agreements Signed by Lithuania before 2022 but Entered into Force in regard to Lithuania in 2022 – Bi- and Multilateral Agreements

Title	Conclusion	Entry into force
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the Mutual Recognition and Exchange of Driving Licences	07.10.2021	08.01.2022
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of Romania on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments	08.03.1994	24.03.2022
Convention between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	19.04.2013	04.04.2022
Protocol to amend the Air Transport Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the United States of America, of the other part	24.06.2010	05.05.2022
Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation between the European Union and its member states, of the one part, and New Zealand, of the other part	05.10.2016	21.07.2022
Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments	15.10.1997	26.08.2022 (terminated)

Title	Conclusion	Entry into force
Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and Ukraine regarding amendments and additions to the Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and Ukraine on Social Security	08.12.2017	29.09.2022
Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Portuguese Republic on the Mutual Promotion and Protection of Investments	27.05.1998	14.10.2021 (terminated)
Framework Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Australia, of the other part	07.08.2017	21.10.2022
Protocol between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Armenia Implementing the Agreement Between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the Readmission of Persons Residing Without Authorisation	15.06.2021	01.12.2022
Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Austria on the Termination of the Agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Austria for the Promotion and Protection of Investments Concluded by exchange of notes of 18 November 2021 and 17 December 2021	17.12.2021	01.12.2022
Protocol between the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Armenia Implementing the Agreement Between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the Readmission of Persons Residing Without Authorisation	15.06.2021	01.12.2022

Title	Conclusion	Entry into force
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Readmission of Persons with Unauthorised Stay	15.09.2003	01.12.2022 (expired)
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on the Termination of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on the Promotion and Mutual Protection of Investments Concluded by exchange of notes of 12 May 2022 and 15 June 2022	15.06.2022	22.12.2022

Annex 1.B. Agreements Signed by Lithuania before 2022 but Entered into Force in regard to Lithuania in 2022 – Conventions

Title	Conclusion	Entry into force
Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters: in regard to Georgia	18.03.1970	21.02.2022
Hagie Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction: in regard to Bolivia in regard to Jamaica	25.10.1980	01.06.2022 01.06.2022

Annex 11.A. Agreements Signed by Lithuania in 2022 – Bi- and Multilateral Agreements

Title	Conclusion	Entry into force
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the State of Israel on Film Co-production	07.01.2022	27.07.2023
Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of Australia on Employment of the Dependants of Diplomatic and Consular Personnel	09.02.2022	09.02.2022
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Solidarity Measures to Safeguard the Security of Gas Supply	10.03.2022	22.12.2022
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on International Road Transport	18.05.2022	28.10.2022
Treaty between the Republic of Lithuania and the Federative Republic of Brazil on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	02.06.2022	
Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services Arrangement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Lithuania	29.06.2022	29.06.2022
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Moldova on Cooperation in the Fight against Crime	03.08.2022	04.01.2023

Title	Conclusion	Entry into force
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on the Exemption from Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	29.08.2022	14.12.2022
Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal cases, signed on 9 August 1994	31.08.2022	
Protocol amending the Agreement of 22 July 1997 between the Republic of Lithuania and the Federal Republic of Germany for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital	30.09.2022	19.12.2023
Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement between the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the European Union and Its Member States	17.10.2022	
Treaty on Extradition between the Republic of Lithuania and the United Arab Emirates	04.11.2022	
Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Republic of Lithuania and the United Arab Emirates	04.11.2022	
Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Republic of Lithuania and the United Arab Emirates	04.11.2022	

Title	Conclusion	Entry into force
Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and Its Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Thailand, of the other part	14.12.2022	
Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and Its Member States, of the one part, and the Government of Malaysia, of the other part	14.12.2022	

Annex 11.B. Agreements Signed by Lithuania in 2022 – Conventions

Title	Conclusion	Entry into force
Amendment to the Statute of the Council of Europe (Article 26)	27.04.2022	27.04.2022