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PC.DEL/1396/22
30 September 2022

ENGLISH only



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO THE UN,
OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement by Mr. Nils Jansons, Acting Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

**1391th Permanent Council (reinforced)
29 September 2022**

Mr. Chairperson,

Latvia fully aligns with the statement made by the European Union, but allow me to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Latvia welcomes initiative of Poland, OSCE Chairmanship, to convene the reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council on recent so-called referenda in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Latvia reiterates its condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.

Russia's unjustified invasion of Ukraine has grossly violated international law, undermined global security and shaken the foundations upon which the OSCE was built.

Russia's illegal actions continue. We strongly condemn holding recent unlawful sham referenda, and urge Russia to immediately cease provocative actions of further escalation of its military aggression against Ukraine.

Results of the fake polls will never be recognised! We will never recognize Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of the territories of Ukraine, be it Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson or Crimea. These territories belong to Ukraine.

Russia must be and will be held accountable. It is our common duty to ensure independent and effective investigations into all atrocity crimes committed by Russia in and against Ukraine.

A special tribunal competent to investigate and adjudicate the crimes of Russia's aggression against Ukraine should be established and full reparation for the damages must be ensured by Russia.

Latvia reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and for Ukraine's inherent right to self-defence.

We call upon all members of the international community to support Ukraine in its efforts.

We stand and will continue to stand with Ukraine and its people in their fight for freedom and independence.