

## STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY Regarding the 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Baltic Way and the

Ongoing Collective Responsibility to Defend Freedom of Ukraine

We, the members of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly, on the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Baltic Way,

*bonour* the historical significance of the Baltic Way – Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians joining their hands to oppose the Soviet occupation regime by creating a human chain spanning more than 600 kilometres connecting the capitals of the Baltic States;

recognise that the ongoing struggles of Ukraine to defend its freedom and democracy are deeply connected to this moment in Baltic history when 2 million people stood united against oppression and began their shared journey to restoring independence;

*emphasise* the significant contribution of the West in bringing freedom and democracy to the Baltic States, which ensured highly significant changes to the history of the world;

call the Member States of the European Union and NATO to unite all means of support to end the Russian aggression against Ukraine, shielding Ukrainians from further horrors of the continued war started and sustained by Russia;

highlight the critical importance of guaranteeing Ukraine's security in any agreement to end Russia's war, of not permitting the aggressor to set the terms or decide outcomes without Ukraine's presence, as well as of securing a stable and lasting peace in Europe.

President of the Baltic Assembly

Vice President of the Baltic Assembly

Vice President of the Baltic Assembly

**Jānis Vucāns** Republic of Latvia **Timo Suslov** Republic of Estonia **Giedrius Drukteinis** Republic of Lithuania