



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



Ministry of Health
Republic of Latvia



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

8 March, 2022

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General of the World Health Organization

Dr Hans Henry P. Kluge
WHO Regional Director for Europe

Dear Director-General,

Dear Regional Director,

We, the Ministers of Health of the Baltic States, are addressing you in the darkest hour for Europe and the whole world, when the open large-scale unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, an independent, sovereign and peaceful country, by armed forces of the Russian Federation with the support of Belarus, grossly violates the international law, all civilized norms and core principles on which the international rules-based order is built, including the principles of the UN Charter. This is the most dangerous moment in European security for a generation, which endangers international peace and security at a global scale. It is also a crime against the Ukrainian people.

With an extreme cruelty and cynicism, violating all international laws, Russian Federation continues indiscriminate shelling of civilians and civilian objects, shelling hospitals and other medical facilities, attacking ambulances, depriving Ukrainian people from receiving essential medical care and impede medical professionals to performing their professional duty – to save lives. The attacks also pose a huge challenge for the delivery of medications and life-saving supplies which are needed urgently. This will lead or has already led to a humanitarian catastrophe, and we must interfere.

Director-General, Regional Director,

We appeal to you to react in the strongest possible way to these atrocities. As you have rightly stated “Ensuring the health and well-being of all people lies at the

core of WHO's mandate and commitments in all situations, including humanitarian crises and conflicts". In the ongoing war in Ukraine, "health must remain a priority pillar, health workers must be protected so they can do their work and save lives, health systems and medical facilities must be protected to remain functional, safe and accessible to all who need essential medical services. It is imperative to ensure that life-saving medical supplies reach those who need them."

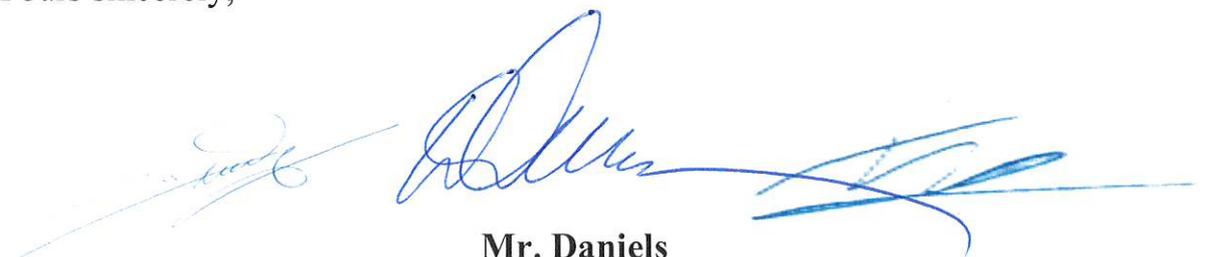
The Baltic States acknowledge and highly appreciate WHO efforts to mobilise assistance to Ukraine, however, we urge you to use all your power and put all possible pressure as UN family to create safe and unimpeded passage for medical personnel and humanitarian personnel engaged in medical duties, their equipment, transport and supplies, to all people in need, consistent with international humanitarian law. As well as to demand Russian Federation to keep to the obligations of the UN Security Council Resolution No 2286.

Everyones right to health is a human right that Russian Federation is grossly violating in Ukraine. WHO as an UN agency standing for people's health should not accept one of its Member States undermining its core values and principles, denying the right to health. Therefore, we are convinced that the Russian Federation should not be part of the WHO governing bodies and decision making processes.

The Baltic States express their full solidarity with Ukraine and are already taking measures to provide needed support in terms of medication supplies, and help with our health care professionals doctors and patients in Ukrainian hospitals.

We would appreciate further information on the actions taken by the WHO in this regard and reiterate our readiness to act together with you and the whole UN family to provide a robust response to this attack on humanity.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Arūnas Dulkys
Minister of Health of the
Republic of Lithuania

**Mr. Daniels
Pavļuts**
Minister of Health
of the Republic of
Latvia

Mr. Tanel Kiik
Minister of Health and Labour
of Estonia