

Joint Declaration

between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

on cooperation in strengthening civil preparedness, resilience and continuity of state functions in the event of war or other severe security crises

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”,

Reaffirming the close strategic partnership between Lithuania and Ukraine, based on shared democratic values, respect for international law and its principles, and a common understanding of the security challenges that Europe faces,

Recognising that Ukraine’s experience in resisting Russia’s full-scale aggression has generated unique practical knowledge in maintaining the functioning of the state, protecting civilians, sustaining essential services and preserving national resilience under conditions of war,

Acknowledging Lithuania’s consistent support for Ukraine’s sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders,

Emphasising that the security of Ukraine and the security of Lithuania are closely interlinked and form an integral part of European security,

Recognising the need to strengthen whole-of-government and whole-of-society preparedness for crises, hybrid threats, disruption of essential services, and external armed aggression,

Recognising further that both Parties possess valuable experience and expertise relevant to national resilience, civilian preparedness, democratic governance, digitization of public services, international mobilisation and institutional adaptation under crisis conditions, and that cooperation under this Joint Declaration should be reciprocal, mutually beneficial and practically oriented,

Acknowledging that important cooperation and exchange of experience between Lithuanian and Ukrainian institutions, experts and practitioners is already taking place in a number of relevant areas, and recognising the need to consolidate these efforts into a more systematic, coordinated and sustainable framework,

Taking into account Ukraine's practical experience in ensuring continuity of governance, civilian protection, logistics, healthcare, energy resilience, critical infrastructure protection, border control, digital resilience and public communication under wartime conditions,

Wishing to deepen structured cooperation between Lithuanian and Ukrainian institutions, experts and practitioners in order to enhance both countries' civilian preparedness and resilience, building on existing initiatives and transforming them into a more systemic whole-of-government effort,

Declare as follows:

1. Objectives

The objective of this Joint Declaration is to strengthen cooperation between the Parties in the field of civilian preparedness, resilience and continuity of state functions in the event of external aggression or other severe security crises.

The Parties intend to develop this cooperation on the basis of partnership, mutual trust and reciprocity, recognising that both Lithuania and Ukraine have relevant experience to share in strengthening national resilience, democratic institutions and societal preparedness.

At the same time, the Parties acknowledge the particular value of Ukraine's practical experience in maintaining the functioning of the state, protecting civilians, sustaining essential services, mobilising society and adapting institutions under conditions of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. This experience is of direct relevance to Lithuania's efforts to strengthen its own civilian preparedness, institutional coordination and capacity to ensure the continuity of essential public services in crisis or wartime conditions.

The Parties note that a number of exchanges, institutional contacts and practical cooperation initiatives in these areas are already under way. The purpose of this Joint Declaration is therefore not to replace existing efforts, but to bring them into a more coherent, coordinated and strategic framework, ensuring continuity, prioritization, scaling-up and practical follow-up.

Through this Joint Declaration, the Parties seek to create a structured framework for the exchange of knowledge, lessons learned and practical tools, including through institutional cooperation, expert exchanges, study visits, joint exercises and other forms of engagement between relevant Lithuanian and Ukrainian authorities and stakeholders.

2. Areas of Cooperation

The Parties intend to develop cooperation, in implementing this Joint Declaration, through coordinated political, institutional, technical, expert-level engagement and public-private partnership in the following areas:

2.1. Continuity of governance and institutional preparedness

The Parties intend to exchange experience on maintaining the functioning of state and municipal institutions under conditions of war and severe security crisis, including:

- continuity of decision-making at national, regional and local levels, including the division of responsibilities between central government and municipalities;
- crisis coordination mechanisms, transition of governmental institutions and municipalities from peacetime to crisis, inter-agency communication and practical arrangements for the functioning of public administration in disrupted environments, including initial crisis response and first 72 hours of a full-scale crisis;
- public order and governance in frontline, high-risk or temporarily disrupted regions, including cooperation with local authorities and communities;
- continuity of diplomatic and consular services and international engagement;
- protection, continuity and recovery of institutional records, registries, archives and administrative data;
- exchange of Lithuania's and Ukraine's respective experience in institutional preparedness, crisis governance and adaptation of public administration to prolonged security threats.

2.2. Digitalization, data protection and cyber resilience

The Parties intend to cooperate on digital solutions enabling the continuity and resilience of state functions during war and crisis, including:

- governance, protection and secure processing of large sensitive data sets, state registers and databases;
- continuity and resilience of digital public services, including secure data exchange between institutions during emergencies;
- prioritisation and continuity of critical state digital functions and services during crisis, including minimum-operational models for essential registries, identity, communication and inter-institutional coordination systems;
- **digital tools for public warning, situational awareness and communication with civilian population;**

- **lessons learnt in countering cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns and attempts to disrupt digital governance;**
- mutual exchange on regulatory, technical and institutional solutions supporting trusted digital government in crisis conditions.

2.3. Healthcare system preparedness

The Parties intend to exchange experience on adapting healthcare systems to wartime and severe crisis conditions, including:

- interoperability between civilian and military healthcare systems and preparedness of civilian healthcare institutions to operate under attack or disruption;
- frontline and national medical evacuation systems, stabilisation points, emergency medical response and evacuation abroad of seriously ill or wounded persons;
- management of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, blood reserves and other critical health stockpiles;
- mental health, rehabilitation and long-term support for affected civilians, veterans and service members;
- joint learning on healthcare governance, emergency planning and continuity of medical services as well as pharmaceutical activity services (manufacturing, wholesale and pharmacy activity) during prolonged crises.

2.4. Civil protection, public safety and population resilience

The Parties intend to cooperate on strengthening civil protection systems, public safety and population preparedness, including:

- public warning systems and communication during wartime, including alerts on aerial and other security threats;
- planning and prioritisation of shelters and protective infrastructure, including adaptation of underground spaces and public facilities for protection of civilians;
- evacuation planning for high-risk areas, fire extinguishing, search and rescue, demining and recovery operations, and training of emergency services, **local and regional authorities** and civilian volunteers;
- territorial community-level resilience and public safety mechanisms, including cooperation with volunteer formations and relevant organisations, such as the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union, where appropriate and in accordance with national law;
- maintenance of public order and essential services in areas affected by attacks, occupation threats or major disruptions.

2.5. Logistics and uninterrupted provision of essential resources

The Parties intend to exchange experience on ensuring the uninterrupted provision of resources during war and crisis, including:

- planning of supply chains for essential goods, equipment, fuel, food, medical supplies and other critical resources;
- planning and providing support to the Armed Forces;
- identification, diversification and protection of transport routes, including the use of seaports, railways, roads and border crossings under disrupted conditions;
- coordination between state institutions, **local and regional authorities**, private operators, humanitarian actors and international partners;
- prioritisation of scarce resources, emergency distribution mechanisms and continuity of supply to critical users;
- stockpiling, mobilisation and management of strategic reserves.

2.6. Protection of critical infrastructure

The Parties intend to cooperate on physical, technological and organisational measures to protect critical infrastructure, including:

- protection of energy, transport, communications, water and other **critical** infrastructure;
- active and passive protection measures, rapid repair capabilities and mobile response teams;
- protection against UAV, missile-related and sabotage threats, within the civilian and non-military competence of relevant institutions;
- continuity planning for critical infrastructure operators and cooperation between public authorities and private infrastructure providers;
- exchange of practical lessons on resilience standards, vulnerability assessments and recovery after attacks or major disruptions.

2.7. Energy resilience

The Parties intend to exchange experience on maintaining energy supply under attack and during large-scale disruption, including making use of Ukraine's practical experience in developing and implementing solutions for the protection of critical equipment against military threats, as well as methodological support during the design and solution selection phases, including:

- uninterrupted provision of energy to critical users and prioritisation of consumers during shortages;

- rapid reconstruction, mobile repair teams, emergency shutdowns and restoration procedures;
- rationing, demand-management measures and communication with the public during energy disruptions;
- decentralised, backup and renewable energy solutions supporting institutional and community resilience;
- active and passive protection of energy infrastructure and lessons learned from attacks against the energy system.

2.8. Territorial planning

The Parties intend to collaborate on masterplanning territorial recovery with the mutual understanding that resilience and sustainable recovery (building back better) cannot be achieved without territorial planning :

- Experience sharing on medium-term territorial planning at the local, regional and state levels;
- Joint work on securing the necessary funding to support the preparation of comprehensive territorial plans by Ukrainian local authorities in line with the Ukrainian Law;
- Digitization of the management of the land at municipal level, including the land inventory;
- Ensuring that territorial planning actively contributes to the overall resilience of the state and its territorial communities, with particular emphasis on the energy sector and the provision of critical public services.

2.9. Border control and management of wartime mobility

The Parties intend to cooperate on the adaptation of border control systems to wartime and crisis realities, including:

- management of large-scale population movement, evacuation flows and humanitarian crossings;
- continuity of border, customs and migration procedures under disrupted conditions;
- coordination between border guards, customs, law enforcement, civil protection authorities and military structures;
- use of drone and anti-drone systems in border monitoring, within applicable legal frameworks;
- interoperability of border-control authorities with other crisis-response institutions and armed forces;

- enforcing the prohibition to the male population of recruitment age to leave the country during the mobilization.

2.10. Strategic communication, media literacy and counter-disinformation

The Parties intend to exchange experience on public communication during war and crisis, including:

- maintaining public trust and ensuring timely and official information during protracted emergencies;
- countering foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), including through initiatives to increase media literacy and strengthen information resilience of society;
- communicating with vulnerable territorial communities and populations in high-risk areas, including using digital tools to track public needs, concerns and sentiment;
- coordination between **state institutions, local and regional authorities**, media, **academia, creators of content in social media and** civil society
- protection of democratic information space in conditions of war and hybrid threats.

2.11. Documentation and investigation of war-related crimes

The Parties intend to exchange experience on the organisation of work related to documenting and investigating crimes committed during war, including:

- institutional coordination between law enforcement bodies, prosecutors, emergency services, local executive authorities and other relevant institutions;
- collection, preservation, verification and secure management of evidence;
- protection of victims and witnesses and communication with affected communities;
- cooperation with international mechanisms, organisations and partners, including the use of documentation collected by civil society and NGOs.;
- lessons learned on maintaining justice-sector functions during war and severe security crises.

2.12. Public-private and civil society cooperation

The Parties intend to promote cooperation with civil society organisations, volunteer networks, private operators and expert communities in areas relevant to preparedness and resilience, including:

- mobilisation of societal capacities during crisis, including cooperation with volunteer and humanitarian networks;

- preparedness of private sector for prolonged security threats, engagement of private companies and professional associations in continuity planning and crisis response;
- training, awareness-raising and practical preparedness activities for local communities;
- development of exercises, simulations, scenario-based discussions and joint learning formats;
- exchange of experience on building trust and structured cooperation between public authorities, civil society and private-sector actors.

2.13. Defence innovation ecosystem and public-private technology cooperation

The Parties intend to cooperate in strengthening the link between the defence sector, public institutions and the innovation ecosystem, drawing on both countries' experience in mobilising technological solutions for security and resilience, including:

- development of institutional models that connect defence and security needs with startups, technology companies, research institutions and investors;
- exchange of experience on platforms and mechanisms supporting defence innovation, including models similar to Brave1, and other relevant Ukrainian initiatives;
- promotion of the implementation of modern technologies in the fields of security, healthcare, education, agricultural technologies, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and other priority areas of technological development;
- creation of favourable regulatory, financial and operational conditions conducive for the testing, scaling and procurement of innovative and dual-use technologies;
- cooperation between state institutions, defence-sector actors, universities, accelerators, venture capital and private technology companies, including through secure testing environments and rapid feedback loops between end-users and innovators;
- strengthening dual-use innovation capacities in areas such as drones, anti-drone technologies, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, communications, situational awareness, demining and critical infrastructure protection.

2.14. Social protection, continuity of payments and veteran reintegration

The Parties intend to exchange experience on maintaining social protection systems and supporting reintegration during war and crisis, including:

- continuity of social services and payments, including pensions, benefits, salaries and other essential transfers, in the event of disruption to banking systems or in conflict-affected regions;
- providing support to, including through the alternative administrative and payment mechanisms for vulnerable groups, internally displaced persons, families of service members and populations with limited mobility;
- integration of war veterans into the labour market, including retraining, employment support, psychosocial assistance and cooperation with employers;
- coordination between social protection authorities, municipalities, employment services, civil society and international partners;
- mutual exchange of Lithuanian and Ukrainian experience in supporting vulnerable communities, veterans and families affected by war.

2.15. Cultural heritage protection and cultural resilience

The Parties intend to cooperate in protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage and in maintaining cultural resilience during armed conflict, disasters and severe crises, including through:

- ensuring comprehensive risk management and response measures for **the protection of** cultural heritage sites,
- identification, documentation, monitoring, digitalisation and prioritisation of cultural property, archives, museum collections, libraries and other cultural assets at risk;
- emergency protection measures, including evacuation, storage, conservation and safeguarding cultural property and cultural heritage records;
- coordination and exchange of information between **state institutions**, cultural institutions, civil protection bodies, **local and regional authorities**, law enforcement agencies, customs authorities and relevant international organizations in the field of cultural heritage protection, import, export and return of cultural values, and museum affairs;
- cooperation in preventing and combating the illicit trafficking, illegal export, intentional destruction of cultural property, in accordance with applicable international law
- documenting and assessing damage and threats to cultural heritage, as well as supporting measures to ensure the recovery, reconstruction of cultural institutions and restoration of cultural heritage sites;
- exchange of knowledge, expertise and good practices on the role of culture and cultural heritage in strengthening national identity, democratic values, societal resilience, and social cohesion during times of war and crisis;

- cooperation in capacity building of specialists and institutions involved in protection and safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

2.16. Diaspora engagement and mobilisation of international support

The Parties intend to exchange experience on mobilising diaspora communities in support of national resilience and in engaging with international organisations, including:

- mobilisation of diaspora networks to support political, military, humanitarian, reconstruction and recovery efforts, in accordance with national legislation and policy priorities;
- coordination between state institutions, diplomatic missions, diaspora organisations, civil society and trusted international partners;
- communication with diaspora communities during crises and their involvement in public diplomacy, advocacy and counter-disinformation efforts;
- facilitation of humanitarian assistance, expert support, fundraising and volunteer initiatives through diaspora channels;
- long-term policies for maintaining links with citizens and communities abroad during periods of war, displacement or large-scale migration;
- organization of work within International Organizations, reaching out to their secretariats and executive structures, conducting international campaigns.

3. Implementation

The Parties intend to implement this Joint Declaration through:

- regular consultations between relevant Lithuanian and Ukrainian governmental institutions and designated contact points; coordinated by the MFAs;
- expert exchanges, study visits, workshops, practical training formats and joint learning programmes;
- sharing of analytical materials, guidelines, technical standards, lessons learned and operational experience;
- pilot cooperation projects, joint exercises, simulations and scenario-based discussions in selected sectors of preparedness and resilience;
- involvement of governmental institutions, municipalities, emergency services, critical infrastructure operators, healthcare institutions, social protection bodies, cultural institutions, civil society organisations, private-sector actors and other relevant stakeholders;

- cooperation with international partners, including the European Union, NATO, the United Nations and other relevant organisations, where appropriate.

The Parties may identify priority areas for annual or multiannual cooperation and develop indicative practical work plans for their implementation.

4. Coordination

To ensure effective coordination and follow-up, the Parties intend to designate high-level contact points–(i.e. Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs) responsible for coordinating the implementation of this Joint Declaration.

Relevant ministries and institutions of both Parties may establish direct working contacts within their respective areas of competence.

The Parties may review progress in the implementation of this Joint Declaration on a regular basis and, where appropriate, update the priority areas of cooperation.

5. Final Provisions

This Joint Declaration reflects the political intentions of the Parties and does not create legally binding obligations under international law.

This Joint Declaration enters into effect on the date of its signature.

Signed in Vilnius, on June 1, 2026, in two originals **in the English language**

**For the Government of the Republic of
Lithuania**

For the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

Inga Ruginienė

Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania

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