

Strasbourg, February 24th, 2022

STATEMENT ON UKRAINE – RUSSIA

It is a sad day.

Despite the escalation in the recent months, it is hard to contemplate that a full-scale war started in the middle of the European continent. As ALDA, we deplore many lives that are already lost, and all the suffering generated against Ukraine in the past years and as of today.

We call for the European Union to continue having an even more engaged role to end the Russian military invasion of Ukraine and start immediately a peace process.

During the past years, ALDA has actively worked in Ukraine, having Local Democracy Agencies in **Mariupol** - the most eastern city which remained under Kyiv's control – and in **Dnipro**, with the municipalities of **Mariupol**, **Dnipro** and the **District of Odessa** being members of ALDA.

Moreover, ALDA has recently implemented a large capacity building program for Local Authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk. We will continue our efforts in promoting local democracy especially now when it is most needed!

ALDA joins the EU community in its strong statements and calls for immediate ceasefire and a diplomatic resolution of the situation.

ALDA team and Governing Board, 24th of February 2022

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