An Open Letter to the heads of state and governments of NATO countries

The upcoming NATO Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for member nations to secure the future of the Alliance and greater Europe. We, the undersigned, call for the NATO member countries to define a specific roadmap leading to Ukraine's NATO membership in the very near future.

Russia's unprovoked and criminal aggression against the Ukrainian people is a direct danger to rules-based international order and to the security of democratic countries.

Ukraine is fighting for Europe and for all the European Union and NATO members.

Ukraine has shown its ability and willingness to make the security commitments necessary to retain its own independence and the security of other European countries. Furthermore, Ukraine has upheld its institutions, demonstrated its commitment to democratic principles and values, and showed it is a trustworthy partner and ally despite Russia's unrestricted warfare and state-sponsored gross human rights and international law violations.

At the 2008 Bucharest Summit, the Allies agreed that Ukraine will become a member of NATO in the future. It is time for the NATO countries to honour that pledge.

Ukraine officially applied for NATO membership on September 30th 2022. NATO should now welcome Ukraine with open arms and help them uphold their commitments and obligations as a full NATO member. This is the only feasible way to guarantee peace in Europe in the face of unrelenting Russian aggression.

Riho Terras General, Estonian Army (Retired) Former Chief of Defence, Estonia

Mieczysław Gocuł General, Polish Army (Retired) Former Chief of Defence, Poland

Raimonds Graube Lieutenant General, Latvian Army (Retired) Former Chief of Defence, Latvia Vytautas Jonas Žukas Lieutenant General, Lithuanian Army (Retired) Former Chief of Defence, Lithuania

Frederick B. Hodges Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Retired) Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe, and 7th Army

Michael S. Repass Major General, U.S. Army (Retired) Former Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command Europe