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STATEMENT ON THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Adopted by the LWF Council on 18 June 2024

The Lutheran World Federation Council, meeting under the theme 'Abound in Hope – Rom 15:13' issues the following statement:

The Council finds it appalling that Russia's war against Ukraine has persisted since the escalation of the conflict in February 2022. The Council laments the massive casualties, suffering and forcible displacement of almost 10 million people due to this ongoing war and reiterates its deep concern about its impact now and in the years to come.

The Council strongly rejects the instrumentalization of the word 'holy' by the Russian Orthodox Church to declare and justify the war against Ukraine as a 'holy war'.

The Council stands in solidarity with and is encouraged by the work of the LWF member church, the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine and the LWF World Service country programs to support the people affected by the war. The Council is grateful for the solidarity visit of the LWF President, the General Secretary, together with other leaders from the communion to Ukraine. The Council furthermore affirms the work of Lutheran churches and partners in neighboring countries and across the world that continue to respond through humanitarian assistance, pastoral care, advocacy and solidarity.

The Council calls for:

- An end to the war against Ukraine and a withdrawal of the Russian military from Ukrainian territories, in accordance with the principle of territorial integrity as enshrined in the UN Charter
- The parties to the armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law and human rights.

The international community to continue humanitarian support to the affected parts of Ukraine to ensure that the people affected by the conflict are assisted and protected according to humanitarian principles.

Continued support for internally displaced persons and refugees from Ukraine by churches and societies in neighboring countries and beyond.