JOINT STATEMENT

on the so-called elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation and their illegal conduct in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia

We, the undersigned members of parliament, participating in the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the obligation of all States under Article 2(4) to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine, which called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolutions ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 on aggression against Ukraine and ES-11/4 of 12 October 2022, which declared that the so-called referendums in parts of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine and their attempted illegal annexation have no validity under international law,

Recalling in addition United Nations General Assembly resolution ES-11/5 of 14 November 2022 on the furtherance of remedy and reparation for aggression against Ukraine, which recognized the need for the establishment of an international mechanism for reparation for damage, loss or injury arising from the internationally wrongful acts of the Russian Federation in or against Ukraine,

Recalling further the resolution adopted by the 145th IPU Assembly (Kigali, October 2022) condemning the invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent annexation of territories, in defence of the territorial integrity of all States, and the IPU Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections (1994),

Noting with grave concern that from 18 to 20 September 2026 the Russian Federation held so-called elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the ninth convocation, including in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and in the temporarily occupied parts of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine *as well* in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova without the consent of the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova, and opened polling stations in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia without the consent of the Government of Georgia,

Mindful that under international humanitarian law occupation confers no sovereignty on the occupying power, and that these elections were held under military occupation, amid the imposition of Russian citizenship on Ukrainian citizens and systematic repression,

Noting also that, as established by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, these elections were held amid the systematic suppression of political opposition and the criminalisation of dissent, marked by the mass imprisonment of political prisoners and the murder of Alexei Navalny by the Russian State, the exclusion of the anti-war Yabloko party and its candidates, and the refusal to admit OSCE observers, under a President whom the Assembly has declared illegitimate,

Welcoming the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of 17 September 2026, the statement of the European Union of 21 September 2026 and Resolution 2677 (2026) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of 30 September 2026, which rejected these so-called elections and found that the resulting State Duma cannot be recognized as democratically elected or as the legitimate representative of the Russian citizens,

Recalling the founding principles of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as enshrined in Article 1 of its Statutes, under which the IPU, as the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue since 1889, shall work for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the solid establishment of representative institutions, contribute to the defence and promotion of human rights, and share the objectives of the United Nations, supporting its efforts and working in close cooperation with it,

1. *Condemn* the organization by the Russian Federation of elections to the State Duma in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine as a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and of international law;

2. *Reaffirm* that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and the temporarily occupied parts of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions are an integral part of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;

3. *Consider* these elections illegitimate, do not recognize their results, and regard any mandates attributed to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine as null and void, their inclusion further undermining the legitimacy of the State Duma as a whole;

4. *Declare* the so-called elections to the State Duma of 18 to 20 September 2026 illegitimate in their entirety, having been held with opposition figures excluded, imprisoned or killed, anti-war parties barred from standing and independent international observation refused, and under a President we do not recognize as legitimate; and consider that the resulting State Duma, which has endorsed the war of aggression against Ukraine and whose members support its continuation, cannot be regarded as a democratically elected or a representative body;

5. *Condemn likewise* the organization of voting in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova and in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia without the consent of the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both States within their internationally recognized borders, and do not recognize any results of such voting;

6. *Call on* parliaments not to recognize the holding of these so-called elections in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, or their results, to adopt statements of non-recognition and to urge their governments to do likewise;

7. *Call on* parliaments to refrain from any action or dealing with persons purportedly elected in the temporarily occupied territories that might be interpreted as recognizing any altered status of these territories;

8. *Reaffirm* that the Russian Federation must be held accountable for any violations of international law in or against Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia and must bear the legal consequences of all of its internationally wrongful acts, including making reparation for the injury, including any damage, caused by such acts;

9. *Support* full accountability for the crime of aggression and for all other international crimes committed against Ukraine, through the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine within the framework of the Council of Europe, the International Criminal Court and national jurisdictions, including for those responsible for organizing these so-called elections;

10. *Call on* parliaments to support an international mechanism for compensation of all victims of the aggression, building on the Register of Damage for Ukraine, including through the use of immobilized Russian sovereign assets, and to adopt the legislation this requires;

11. *Call on* parliaments to urge their governments to adopt, strengthen and enforce sanctions against the Russian Federation and against individuals and entities involved in organizing these so-called elections, and to prevent the circumvention of such sanctions;

12. *Call on* parliaments to limit interaction with the Russian Federation and its Federal Assembly until the Russian Federation withdraws all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and provides full compensation for all crimes committed and all destruction caused by its aggression;

13. *Call on* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to ensure that no IPU record, delegation list or document refers to any part of the territory of Ukraine, Moldova or Georgia as part of the Russian Federation;

14. *Call on* the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in line with Resolution 2677 (2026) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, to review the arrangements for the participation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation in its work.