Mr Chair

Dear colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen

"World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it." – I quote Robert Schuman, one of the founding fathers of European unity and peace after the 2nd World War. The creative efforts needed in our time to foster peace must be built on multilateralism.

United Nations' Secretary-General Antonio Guteress has said that "Multilateralim is not an option but a necessity..". There are certain issues which should be criticized within United Nation's structure and action. Nevertheless, multilateralism is the prerequisite for peace in accord with international law and rules based order. Multilateralism is prerequisite for the common good, for the respect of human dignity and natural human rights in every society.

United States senator Mr Roger Wicker this morning reiterated what Baltic nations understand particularly well that there is "axis of aggression" – russia, Iran, North Korea and China. Their interwoven policies and international ambitions pose the biggest threat to multilateralism, international law and peace.

This threat must be opposed by united effort of the free democratic countries on the both shores of Atlantic. The great United States president Ronald Reagan understood it very well that, when dealing with "evil empire" soviet russia or ussr peace comes through strength in other word through strong policy of deterrence.

In Republic of Latvia, where I come from, this year we spend 4,91 % of GDP for our military and defense capabilities. The target for 2027 is 5%. We give our contribution to the common NATO transatlantic security architecture. Latvian people deeply appreciate the contribution of the United States for the security of our region. Latvian troops are going to be deployed in international military operation to clear Hormuz strait from mines. The deployment of troops from Canada, Danmark, Sweden, Poland, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia and Iceland in the NATO multinational brigade in Latvia is of utmost importance for security and deterrence of aggression in Baltic see region and the service of its troops are highly appreciated in Latvian society.

Dear colleagues thank you for unwavering support for Ukraine. The OSCE countries must supply brave Ukrainian people with everything they need to counter russia's terrorist attacks and remain resilient in this winter. We must support Ukraine until victory and accept only just peace in accord with Ukrainian

people's sovereign will. Multilateralism will not be just without just peace for Ukraine, it will not be just if Russian war criminals escape punishment. It will be just only when Ukraine's sovereignty is restored over the whole of its territory, Ukrainian children return to their families and russia abandons imperial ambitions to violate the borders of its neighboring countries.

The multilateralism in the future will depend on resilience, unity and cooperation of European democratic countries, the United States, Canada and other countries with close ties to the Western civilization. International policy must be connected to moral principles. The philosophical foundation for international law, rules based order and multilateralism were laid in the works of European philosophers and theologians. To name a few of them. Thomas Aquinas and his contribution to natural law and just war theory. Francisco de Vittoria's contribution to recognition of human rights and international law. Hugo Grotius foundational work for rules based international order. The moral philosophy of Immanuel Kant who regarded perpetual peace not as utopian dream but practical and moral duty of political leaders of nation states. Rethinking their ideas can help to ground and strengthen our political efforts for justice and peace.

Multilateralism in combination with strong policy of deterrence is the only reliable way to just world order, peace and prosperity in the 21st century. It is the prerequisite for peaceful development of every nation state and common good of societies in which human dignity is respected and flourishing of every person is fostered. Thank you!