

## Joint Declaration

### on the Establishment of Strategic Partnership between Romania and Ukraine

**Romania and Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as “Parties”),**

**Acknowledging** longstanding good-neighborly relations, built on extensive people-to-people contacts and shared European values, that unite Romania and Ukraine;

**Building on** the Treaty on the relations of good neighbourliness and cooperation between Romania and Ukraine (Constanța, 2 June 1997);

**Condemning** in strongest terms the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which poses the gravest threat to the security and stability of the entire Black Sea region and of the Euro-Atlantic area;

**Commending** Ukraine’s legitimate defence, the heroic resistance, fight and sacrifice of the Ukrainian people;

**Emphasizing** that Ukraine fights for its own freedom, security and for the fundamental values underpinning the rule of law at international level;

**Stressing Romania’s** unwavering support for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters, in line with the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe, and the principles of international law;

**Reconfirming** that Romania’s multidimensional support for Ukraine, victim of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, will continue for as long as necessary;

**Condemning** all the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine and against Ukraine, by the Russian Federation and its proxies during its war of aggression against Ukraine;

**Stressing out** the need to ensure accountability for all these crimes, including for the crime of aggression, as an essential and fundamental prerequisite of a just and lasting peace in Ukraine;

**Reaffirming** full support for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine;

**Rejecting** any attempts to re-establish spheres of influence and enacting power politics, by threatening the use of force or by using force, and **recognizing** the right of all sovereign states to freely choose their own security arrangements and act according to their own national interests, within the framework of international law, with no external interference;

**Restating** the legitimate right of Ukraine to freely decide and pursue its future, based on the sovereign choice made by its people and **reaffirming** Romania’s firm political and practical support for achieving Ukraine’s goals of EU and NATO membership;

**Reaffirming** the importance of long-term security, stability and economic development of the Black Sea region – a critical area for the European and Euro-Atlantic security, economic development and prosperity, as well as for ensuring safe and secure trade, reliable transport and energy security;

**Recalling** the Joint Declaration of President of Romania and President of Ukraine on the Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine (Chişinău, 1 June 2023);

**Recalling** the Joint Declaration of Support for Ukraine announced by the Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) in the framework of the NATO Vilnius Summit (12 July 2023), which was joined by Romania;

**Recalling** the Agreement on Security Cooperation between Romania and Ukraine (Washington, 11 July 2024);

**Reiterating** both countries' commitment to the process of Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery, which should encompass both recovery and physical reconstruction of economy and infrastructure, as well as the sustainable, democratic and inclusive reform, and modernization of state institutions;

**Acknowledging** Ukraine's efforts to enact wide-ranging, sustainable reforms in line with the European Union values, to advance democratic freedoms and ensure full respect for the rule of law, fundamental freedoms and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities;

**Underlining** the important role of persons belonging to the Romanian national minority (community) living in Ukraine and the Ukrainian national minority living in Romania for strengthening ties between the two States, and noting the mutual determination of Romania and Ukraine and to fully respect their rights, in line with international obligations and standards;

**Reconfirming** their firm commitment to actively promote the use and visibility of their respective mother tongues, including through the establishment and celebration of the Romanian Language Day in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Language Day in Romania;

**Reaffirming** all provisions of the Joint Statement by the President of Romania and the President of Ukraine (Bucharest, 10 October 2023) and the Joint statement by Prime Ministers of Romania and Ukraine following the first meeting of the two Governments (Kyiv, 18 October 2023),

**The Parties resolve to elevate their bilateral relations to the level of Strategic Partnership.**

### **Shared Values**

1. The Strategic Partnership established between the Parties is built on:
  - a. respect and support for each other's sovereignty, independence, political unity, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized frontiers, including their territorial waters;

- b. common European values, including respect for democracy, rule of law, good governance, as well as for the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;
- c. commitment to maintain a comprehensive, constructive and open dialogue, at all levels, through a wide-ranging, forward-looking and mutually beneficial cooperation agenda, in all areas;
- d. common position on the vital imperative to defeat Russia's armed aggression and to ensure a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine, in accordance with the UN Charter;
- e. shared interests in a stable, secure, democratic, prosperous common neighbourhood, including the Black Sea region;
- f. mutual understanding that Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic integration will add another strategic dimension to the bilateral agenda, and strengthen security, foster stability and resilience both in the regional and wider European space;
- g. adherence to the principles of multilateralism and cooperation in regional and multilateral fora to uphold and defend the shared values.

### **Commitments**

In order to advance the mutually-beneficial Strategic Partnership, the Parties commit:

2. To further explore practical cooperation in political, security and defence, trade and economy, infrastructure and connectivity, energy, environmental, technical and scientific, cultural, educational and academic spheres, as well as in other areas of mutual interest between Romania and Ukraine.

3. To maintain focus and work closely together to advance international efforts aimed at:
- a. restoring comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine, in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter;
  - b. investigating and prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed by the Russian Federation in its war of aggression against Ukraine, and actively contributing to international efforts to set up a special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine, committed by the Russian Federation;
  - c. seeking compensation for all the damages, loss and injury caused by the international wrongful acts of the Russian Federation in or against Ukraine, and to contribute further to the establishment and functioning of the Compensation Mechanism, including Claims Commission for Ukraine;
  - d. exploring all lawful options through which immobilized Russian sovereign assets could be transferred to support Ukraine and provide compensation for the victims of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
  - e. protecting Ukraine's cultural heritage, combating looting and the illegal trafficking of cultural values, based on the provisions of the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), including by sanctions

measures against legal and physical persons involved in illegal activities in the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

4. To fully respect the rights of persons belonging to the Romanian national minority (community) living in Ukraine and the Ukrainian national minority living in Romania respectively, including the protection of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious identity. This shall be achieved in accordance with: the Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation between Romania and Ukraine (Constanța, 2 June 1997), and with other international norms, notably the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Strasbourg, 1 February 1995) and the European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages (Strasbourg, 5 November 1992); relevant applicable recommendations of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

5. Furthermore, Romania will continue to support Ukraine's efforts to implement in a comprehensive, meaningful and sustainable manner the process of reforms, including but not limited to: strengthening the rule of law and respect for basic freedoms; ensuring full respect for human rights; reform and independence of the judiciary; fighting corruption; advancing defence reform and modernization; improving transparency and accountability; strengthening good governance; fostering a fair, predictable and stable business environment.

### **Political and Strategic Dialogue**

In order to streamline and tailor the Romania-Ukraine political dialogue within the Strategic Partnership, the Parties:

6. Agree to launch a High Level Strategic Commission Romania-Ukraine, chaired by the Heads of State. Coordination of the Strategic Commission between regular sessions will be carried out through regular meetings of the Presidential Advisors for Foreign Affairs.

7. Agree to organize joint meetings of their Governments on annual basis.

8. Agree to encourage regular contacts and exchanges between the Parliaments, including at the level of parliamentary committees.

9. Agree to ensure regular activity of existing bilateral mechanisms, among them the Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial and Technical-Scientific Cooperation, the Joint intergovernmental Commission on the issue of ensuring the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the Joint Commission on Military and Technical Cooperation.

10. Agree to have annual political consultations at the level of Minister of Foreign Affairs. Consultations on an ad-hoc basis can be convened anytime at the request of one of the Parties.

11. Agree to set up a mechanism of annual consultations at the level of deputy ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence respectively (the "2+2" format).

12. The Parties may decide to set up additional bilateral mechanisms, in fields of common interest, at the level deemed appropriate.

### **Defence and Security**

In order to foster the bilateral cooperation in the field of defence and security aiming at contributing to a secure, stable and prosperous Black Sea region and wider European area, the Parties:

13. Will ensure full implementation of the Agreement on Security Cooperation between Romania and Ukraine (Washington, 11 July 2024);

14. Will design and pursue their overall cooperation in this field based on their firm conviction that Ukraine's future is in NATO. Within the scope of efforts to promote Ukraine's membership in NATO, Romania will continue to contribute to building a consensus among Allies to invite Ukraine to join the Alliance as soon as conditions are met;

15. Will strengthen the cooperation in cybersecurity and in the field of countering foreign information manipulation and interference, including disinformation, with a view to consolidating the resilience of both countries and societies to emerging cyber and hybrid threats.

16. Will support the exchanges and transfer of expertise and of actionable information between the governmental authorities responsible for cyber security, and between the national, governmental and sector level cybersecurity incident response teams, and security operating centers. Furthermore, the Parties will develop projects of cyber interoperability, capacity and capability building with a regional approach, while working together to identify additional financing sources from like-minded partners.

17. Will strengthen their cooperation in law enforcement, including by combating serious and organized crime, by deepening the institutional dialogue between their Ministries of Internal Affairs (including their subordinated entities), strengthening police cooperation, including cross-border police cooperation in countering cybercrime, intensifying cooperation on border management and border security, and designing appropriate joint activities to prevent and tackle illegal migration, human and arms trafficking and other transnational crime. They express readiness to set up additional, dedicated mechanisms of coordination.

18. Will continue the efforts to support Ukraine to further align with the EU legislation in the field of critical infrastructure protection.

19. Will enhance cooperation between the relevant governmental agencies responsible in the fields of forecasting, preventing and countering natural or anthropogenic disasters occurring on the territory of their States, and in the field of nuclear security.

20. Agree to collaborate in the development and implementation of strategic communications (StratCom) initiatives to effectively address shared challenges, promote accurate information, and enhance information resilience.

21. Will enhance cooperation in the defence industry and space activities to bolster the defence capabilities of both nations.

### **Together in the European Union**

The Parties proceed from recognition that the EU enlargement process represents a mutually beneficial and strategic investment for both the EU and the EU Member States, on the one hand, and Ukraine, on the other hand, grounded on fundamental values that need to be protected, respected and upheld both within and outside the EU, in a spirit of solidarity.

In order to ensure Ukraine's strategic goal of European Union membership, which would significantly foster the lasting peace, security, stability and prosperity in Europe, while responding to the legitimately expressed aspirations of the Ukrainian people, the Parties will:

22. Expand their dialogue on European affairs, at all levels deemed relevant, in line with the progress of Ukraine's EU integration process and its sustained advancement in adopting and implementing the EU acquis.

23. Consolidate political and practical cooperation for promoting Ukraine's EU accession process and assisting Ukraine's efforts in fulfilling relevant benchmarks on this path, including through Romania's Official Development Assistance.

24. Explore, where necessary, additional avenues for cooperation with a view to furthering Ukraine's full integration into the European Union internal market, based on the required EU accession criteria.

### **Together for a more safe, resilient and prosperous neighbourhood**

25. The Parties recognize that close bilateral interaction in defence and security, transport and connectivity, trade and energy, environment and agriculture is essential to respond effectively to threats to peace, security and stability, and to contribute to further development of their States, the Black Sea region and the entire Europe.

In this context, the Parties agree to enhance the strategic trilateral coordination between Romania, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova with a view to fostering a joint approach to addressing issues of common interest. Furthermore, the Parties undertake to ensure, wherever possible and feasible, the involvement of the Republic of Moldova in their relevant bilateral undertakings.

### *Regional security*

The Parties agree that unlocking the economic, democratic and cooperative potential of the region, in a secure and stable environment, will yield benefits for the countries in the region and will contribute to the advancement of Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic integration, as well as of the other countries in the region which are engaged in such processes. Furthermore, they note that enhanced connectivity in the Black Sea area represents a key enabler for economic growth and prosperity, as well as for strengthening regional resilience.

In order to foster the regional dimension of Romania-Ukraine Strategic Partnership, and to develop opportunities for enhancing regional security and stability, the Parties:

26. Will strengthen their dialogue and cooperation on the Black Sea, in particular, for: shoring up stability and resilience of the region, impacted by Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and by Russia's hybrid threats and pressures; ensuring freedom and safety of navigation in the Black Sea and Azov Sea, in accordance with international norms and principles; attracting enhanced European and Euro-Atlantic support for long-lasting security, prosperity, democratic resilience and connectivity in the Black Sea region.

27. Will focus their joint activities on the following lines of effort:

- a. enhanced situational awareness regarding security threats in the region, improved maritime security and resilience, protection of critical infrastructure, promoting cooperation among the coastguards;
- b. civil emergency, including coordinated response to disasters, prevention and preparedness;
- c. connectivity in the fields of transportation and infrastructure, energy and digital;
- d. protection of environment, climate change, biodiversity;
- e. people-to-people and civil society engagement.

28. Will further use the opportunities provided by existing EU policies and initiatives, notably the EU strategic approach to the Black Sea region, the Eastern Partnership, the Global Gateway, the Black Sea Synergy, the EU Maritime Security Strategy, the Danube Strategy, the EU Black Sea Common Maritime Agenda and the Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Additionally, we will leverage regional cooperation formats that aim to enhance European connectivity and convergence, such as the Three Seas Initiative.

29. Will make full use of the NATO partnership programs, including the NATO-Ukraine Council and the Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine, in order to address the security situation in the Black Sea region and develop opportunities for enhancing regional security and stability.

30. Will support efforts aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the Transnistrian problem, in full respect of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, and without affecting the European integration process of the Republic of Moldova. They will remain committed to further support the authorities of the Republic of Moldova to this end.

#### *Cross-border cooperation, transports and connectivity*

The Parties underline that strengthening cross-border connectivity has direct relevance for: generating higher development dividends for both Romania and Ukraine; sustaining Ukraine's objective of integration into the EU Single Market; fostering development across the wider Black Sea region.

In order to improve cross-border cooperation and connectivity, the Parties:

31. Will work closely on improving border management, in particular through further consolidation of cross-border road-, railway- and water connectivity, and by investing in:
- a. expanding the existing border crossing points and opening up new ones along the State border between Romania and Ukraine;
  - b. development of access roads and railway infrastructure to the common border;
  - c. facilitation of procedures for border, customs, and sanitary and phytosanitary controls at destination and at border crossing points, with a view to continuously improving border management across the board.
32. Highlight, in this respect, the importance of the Master Plan for the Development of Romania-Ukraine Border Crossing Points and the Adjacent Road Infrastructure and reiterate their commitment to supplement the Master Plan with rail and maritime connections.

### *Energy*

The Parties will work closely to advance bilateral energy and gas interconnections, with a view to mutually strengthening energy security and resilience, diversifying energy routes and supplies, based on a balanced, transparent, non-discriminatory relationship ensuring a fair competition. To this end the Parties:

33. Highlight the importance of Romania-Ukraine interconnections for taking full advantage of Ukraine's integration into the ENTSO-E, and for successfully completing Ukraine's integration in the EU energy market.
34. Agree to take measures, bilaterally and with the relevant EU assistance, for reforming and modernizing the Ukrainian energy infrastructure, in line with the EU acquis, as well as with the practical needs of the reconstruction of energy infrastructure.
35. Agree to cooperate for ensuring better use of underground gas storages that are an important element of energy security in the region.
36. Agree to deepen bilateral cooperation in nuclear energy.

### *Trade, transit and international markets*

The Parties acknowledge their responsibilities as important agricultural producers and active participants to the international trade. They pledge to build their cooperation in order to ensure a predictable flow of grain and other agricultural goods, while at the same time preserving the interests of the agricultural producers and processors in Romania and Ukraine, and ensuring proper functioning of their markets. With this aim the Parties:

37. Welcome the support offered by the European Union, such as through the European Union Assistance Mission to Ukraine or the implementation of EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes, and remain engaged to fully use the available opportunities provided by the EU financing in order to obtain maximum benefits and positive impact for their economies and societies.

38. Will continue working in a transparent, constructive and open manner to facilitate the transit of Ukrainian grains through Romania to global markets, contributing to alleviating the effects of the Russian war of aggression on global food security.

39. Commit to maintain constant and close coordination in order to mitigate possible negative impact on the internal market of any of them, as a result of export or transit of specific agricultural produce originating in the other Party, including via mutually-agreed mechanism for sensitive goods, and in order to ensure fair competition.

#### *Agriculture*

The Parties agree to:

40. Exchange best practices on supporting farmers, as well as streamlining EU regulations in agriculture.

41. Identify the appropriate ways for the participation of Romania's agri-food sector, including related industries, to Ukraine's reconstruction process.

#### *Business environment*

The Parties will enhance their cooperation with regard to supporting Ukraine develop a resilient, predictable and competitive free market economy, able to efficiently and seamlessly integrate into the EU Single Market. They will:

42. Strengthen the technical assistance, exchange of best practices and sharing of information regarding the governance and implementation of EU competition policy.

43. Develop closer business-to-business cooperation, especially at the level of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with an initial focus on practical participation in Ukraine's reconstruction.

44. Intensify cooperation in the sphere of e-governance and digitalization of public sector, including by sharing national experience and good practices.

#### *Environmental cooperation*

The Parties reconfirm their commitment to fully comply with the incumbent international legal obligations in the environmental field. In particular, they:

45. Will stand for sustainable climate and environmental protection action, joining efforts to counter climate change and promote marine protection.

46. Will strengthen their cooperation in environmental matters, with the aim of fighting pollution and protecting the environment on their territories.

47. Will cooperate for the implementation of the *Espoo Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context*, in accordance with the *Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context* (Bucharest, 18 November 2022).

### *Legislative cooperation*

48. The Parties agree to enhance cross-sector cooperation and exchange of best practices for capacity building in the fight against corruption, to consolidate the rule of law at national level.

Romania reiterates its commitment to provide practical assistance in matters related to the legal appropriation of the European Union acquis, as well as in any legal matters of interest for both Parties, in line with the national legislation in force.

### **Protection of the Romanian national minority (community) living in Ukraine and the Ukrainian national minority living in Romania**

Guided by mutual determination to fully respect the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the Parties agree to:

49. Enhance cooperation to ensure the highest level of protection for the rights of persons belonging to the Romanian national minority (community) living in Ukraine and the Ukrainian national minority living in Romania, in accordance with the Parties' international obligations. In this context, they acknowledge the importance of regular proceedings of the Joint intergovernmental Commission on the issue of ensuring the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

50. Ensure that the linguistic rights of the persons belonging to the Romanian national minority (community) living in Ukraine and to the Ukrainian national minority living in Romania in general are legally safeguarded and fully respected, in accordance with the national legislation and the international obligations and standards adhered to by Romania and Ukraine respectively.

51. Exert all efforts to effectively ensure the rights to education in mother tongue for all persons belonging to the Romanian national minority (community) living in Ukraine and to the Ukrainian national minority living in Romania, including by creating the necessary conditions for effective exercise of these rights. They will be guided in these efforts by the goal of increasing the access to education in the Romanian language for the persons belonging to the Romanian national minority (community) living in Ukraine and to education in the Ukrainian language for the persons belonging to the Ukrainian national minority living in Romania respectively. They will facilitate, as part of these efforts, the activities of non-governmental associations and organizations in support of the exercise of these rights such as: activities aimed at improving quality of the education in the mother tongue, sustaining enrolment in public institutions having the mother tongue as the medium of instruction etc.

52. Take comprehensive measures to ensure, in the areas traditionally inhabited by persons belonging to the Romanian national minority (community) living in Ukraine and to the Ukrainian national minority living in Romania, the full exercise of the rights related to the preservation of their language, culture and ethnic identity, in accordance with the applicable international obligations.

53. Maintain regular dialogue and exchange of information on the implementation of the commitments undertaken by the Ukrainian Side regarding the resolution without delay of artificial differences between Romanian and “Moldovan” languages, including through the adoption of appropriate practical measures in line with relevant legal provisions.

54. Intensify joint work to enable education in their mother tongue for Ukrainian children temporary displaced and granted temporary protection status in Romania.

55. Establish a Joint Commission on the research of issues of shared Romanian-Ukrainian history, culture and heritage.

56. Ensure regular dialogue between their governmental agencies in charge of religious affairs and facilitate contacts between churches, religious denominations and organizations, while fully acknowledging the separation between the Church and the State.

### **International Development Cooperation**

57. The Parties agree to cooperate on matters related to international development cooperation with the aim of implementing the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda.

58. The Parties will exchange good practices and relevant experience in the fields of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

59. Romania will further support Ukraine’s development objectives, including through its official development assistance means, especially in the context of the reform process in view of the EU accession path and correlated to the recovery and reconstruction efforts.

### **Mechanisms for implementation of the Joint Declaration**

60. The Parties express their commitment to jointly and constructively work in line with the goals set forth in the present Joint Declaration, and in full respect of shared European values.

61. The Parties agree to instruct the respective line ministries/agencies and institutions of Romania and Ukraine to draft relevant roadmaps and/or bilateral framework agreements in order to guide Romania-Ukraine cooperation in the areas determined by the Joint Declaration.

Signed in duplicate, in English, in Bucharest on March 12, 2026.

**For Romania**

**For Ukraine**