



# Latvia

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL  
2026 – 2027

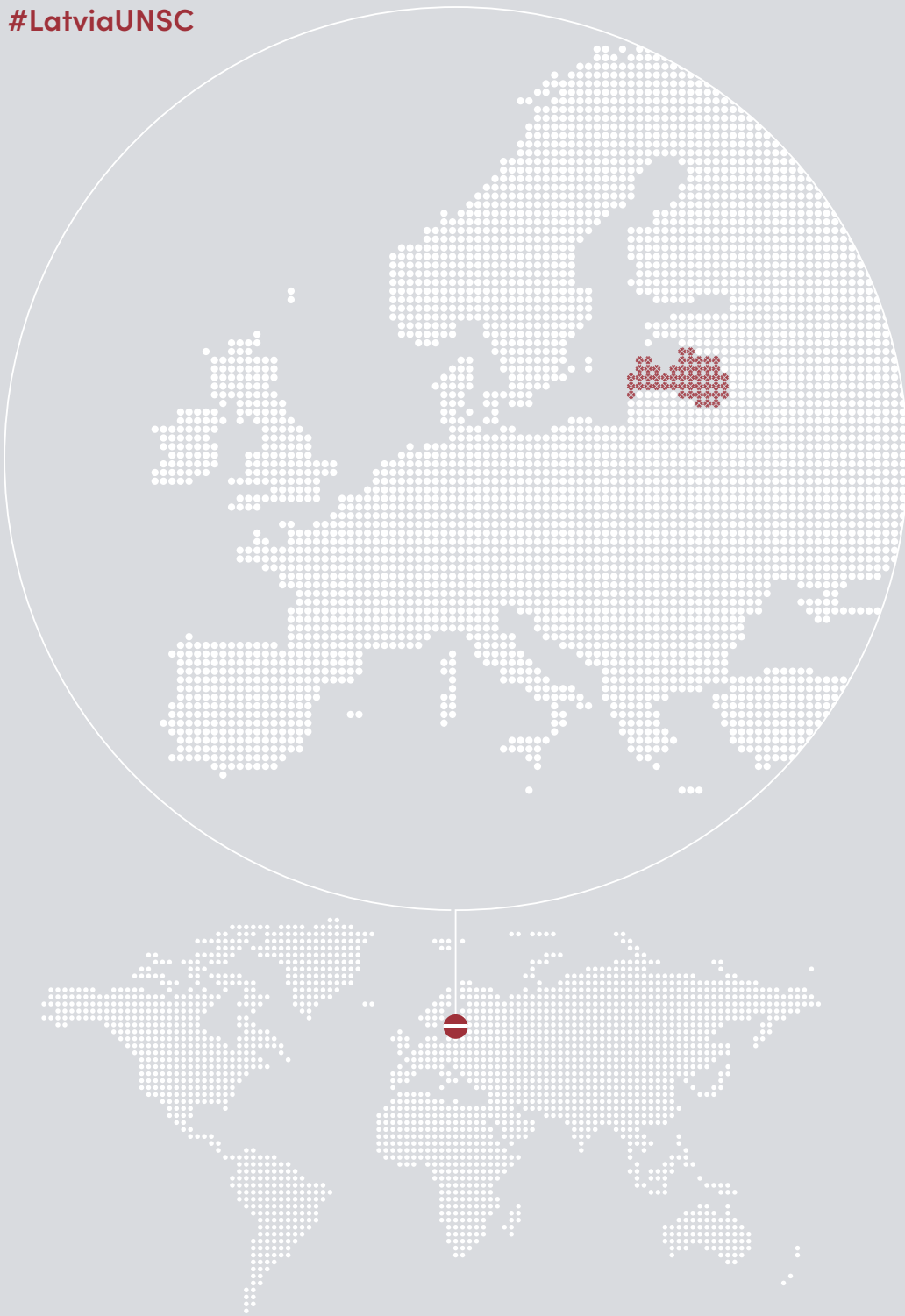
**TOGETHER FOR  
PEACE AND RESILIENCE**



Candidate for the  
UN Security Council  
2026-2027

[LatviaUNSC.mfa.gov.lv](https://LatviaUNSC.mfa.gov.lv)  
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Tapestry *Cerība* (Hope) by Edīte Pauls-Vīgnere.  
A gift from Latvia to the UN in 1994. Photo by Gatis Rozenfelds



« The United Nations is advancing based on the conviction that human solidarity is stronger than any weapon. In this effort, I take heart from our valuable partnership with Latvia. The United Nations is striving to give hope to the peoples of the world, just as Latvia has given the United Nations this wonderful tapestry called **Hope**. »

**Ban Ki-moon**

United Nations Secretary-General 2007–2016

# Latvia – consistent and trusted partner

Latvia aspires to serve as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council for the first time. We are fully prepared to shoulder our part of the responsibility to uphold international peace and security and hope you will trust us with your vote.

Latvia firmly believes that the voice of every country, big or small, matters and deserves to be represented. Latvia will use its voice in the Security Council to defend the values and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Latvia will consistently advocate for **international law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and justice**.

Latvia will bring its unique perspective to strengthen the **resilience** of the multilateral system – from building peace and preventing conflicts to increasing the collective ability to address the full spectrum of existing and emerging challenges.

Latvia is committed to share experience and exchange knowledge with partners across regions and find solutions **together**. Throughout our campaign, we will be listening to all UN Member States. We will continue our transparent

engagement with the wider UN community while serving on the Security Council.

Latvia is a responsible, consistent, and reliable partner. We pledge to engage in the work of the Security Council in a constructive, open, and inclusive manner. Latvia will strive to make the Security Council more **representative, transparent and effective**.

Latvia has been a dedicated member of the United Nations since 17 September 1991, following the restoration of its independence. As a small country, Latvia relies on the international order rooted in the **United Nations Charter**, multilateralism and respect for international law to guarantee our sovereignty.

Latvia knows the value of **freedom**. Our history, marked by centuries under foreign rule and a struggle for

independence, has taught us resilience. It has also made us receptive to issues that other small countries are facing.

Principles of **human rights, the rule of law and good governance** have been essential in Latvia's transformation to a democratic society and shaping its international role. Having undergone a comprehensive reform process and the transition from an aid recipient to a donor, today Latvia is a modern and proud Baltic nation and an active member of the European and global community.



Flag-raising ceremony at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

On 17 Sept. 1991, Latvia became full-fledged member of UN.

Photo by Milton Grant, UN Photo



President of Latvia, Edgars Rinkēvičs, addresses the UN General Assembly, 22 Sept. 2023.

Photo by Ilmārs Znotiņš, Chancery of the President of Latvia

« *The United Nations is the only truly global organization. It is the core of multilateral system uniting all sovereign states. It is especially important for smaller countries, like my own country - Latvia. Determination to protect the fundamental values of the United Nations Charter, to advance peace and resilience, and to revitalize the UN system guides Latvia's candidacy for the Security Council elections in 2025.* »

**Edgars Rinkēvičs**  
President of Latvia



# What Latvia stands for

Latvia's unwavering commitment to upholding the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and devotion to multilateralism are driving our bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the term of 2026–2027 at the 2025 elections. Latvia stands for independence and territorial integrity of all UN member states.

Our world is facing multiple and overlapping challenges beyond national borders. Latvia believes in the importance of working together with **UN Member States, regional organizations and civil society** to build resilience, to forge lasting peace and security, achieve sustainable development and leave no one behind.

Latvia believes that conflict prevention, **protection of civilians** in armed conflicts and a peaceful resolution of disputes must remain a top priority for the UN, including through mediation and peacekeeping.

Latvia advocates for more **accountability, coherence and transparency** of the UN Security Council. Latvia supports the work towards the UN Security Council reforms to increase its effectiveness in tackling global challenges.

Latvia defends the international legal order. Latvia is a firm supporter of accountability for violations of international law and fight against **impunity** as

a precondition to just and sustainable peace.

Latvia recognizes the urgency of responsible action to achieve **Sustainable Development Goals**. Improving long-term resilience is paramount as we confront the escalating climate crisis and rising sea levels.

Latvia will engage with the multilateral system to ensure solidarity and collective effort in support of **vulnerable groups** of society and developing countries affected by political and social tensions, poverty, environmental and water-related challenges.

A long-standing advocate for **gender equality, education and empowerment of women**, Latvia recognizes the crucial role of the Women, Peace and Security agenda for global peace and sustainable development. Latvia will continue to stand up for the protection of women's rights, including in the context of assistance to victims of sexual violence in armed conflicts.



A development cooperation project for women entrepreneurs in Namibia, organised by the Latvian diaspora organization #esiLV in cooperation with Riga Business School, 2022.

*Latvian Foreign Ministry Archive*

Digital solutions make governance more efficient and accessible, including e-governance and capacity building in public administration. Technologies and innovative digital tools have a transformative effect on **fighting climate change** and natural resources management. Latvia believes that bridging the digital divides between countries, urban and rural areas, across gender and age is key to resilience and opportunities for all.

While technological development brings opportunities and connects, it also exposes vulnerabilities and emerging threats to peace and security, such as information manipulation, spread of disinformation and cyber threats. **Digital skills, information and media literacy** provide the first line of defense. Latvia will continue its active engagement on security issues in the digital and information space, including artificial intelligence.



Secretary-General Kofi Annan (1997–2006) (right) meets Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia (1999–2007), Baltic States' candidate for post of UN Secretary-General in 2006 election. UN Headquarters in New York, 8 Mar. 2006.

*Photo by Mark Garten, UN Photo*



Riga Support Center for Ukrainian Refugees, 21 Mar. 2022.

*Photo: Riga City Council*

# Latvia at the UN

As an active and responsible member of the United Nations, Latvia has contributed to key UN bodies such as the Human Rights Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Latvia's expertise is represented at the International Law Commission and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Latvia ensures active participation of **civil society** and **youth** in decision-making processes at home and advocates for transparency and openness at the United Nations. Latvia has invested in establishment of the **UN Youth Delegate Program**.



Latvia's UN Youth Delegate Melisa Matvejeva at United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, 2023.

*Latvian Foreign Ministry Archive*

Latvia has been a provider of **development cooperation** over the last 20 years. In its global action, Latvia has been focusing on good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.

In addition to its commitment to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals at home, Latvia has also engaged in global efforts fostering **climate action, digital transformation and quality education**.

Latvia has built expertise in using **smart solutions** in water, forest and agriculture management. It contributes its experience to working towards

sustainable solutions for access to clean water and combatting marine pollution.

**Gender equality and women's empowerment** has been a longstanding priority for Latvia in international organizations and development cooperation. We have shown our commitment to shaping and enforcing global standards and policies through

Latvian peacekeepers at UNIFIL in 2023.

*Photo by Christian Donadeo (ITA), UNIFIL/ SHAMA/SW HQ PIO*



our elected membership to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of UN WOMEN. As a country with a high percentage of women as IT professionals and scientists, we focus on digital empowerment for women globally.

Latvia contributes to military and civilian missions around the world. Latvia has been part of MINUSMA, UNTSO, and UNIFIL. In recent years, Latvia has been increasingly engaged in **UN peacebuilding** efforts and strengthening of non-proliferation, arms control and export control regimes.

Over the years, Latvia has provided **voluntary financial contributions** to various UN agencies and funds, including

UNDP, UN OCHA, UNHCR, OHCHR, PBF, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNRWA, OSRSG-SVC, SIDS4 High-Level Conference, and ICC Trust Fund for Victims. Latvia consistently ensures that its financial contributions to the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets are made in full and on time.

Latvia has demonstrated leadership and expertise in addressing the issue of **misinformation and disinformation** at the UN thus building societal resilience. Latvia initiated a first-ever cross-regional statement on infodemia in the context of COVID-19, followed by the unanimous adoption of the first UN resolution on a global information and media literacy week.





Photo by Reinis Oliņš, Archive of Latvian National Centre for Culture

# Facts about Latvia



The Historic Centre of Riga was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997.

Latvia is fortunate to have more than 3000 lakes, 12000 rivers and a 500 km long Baltic Sea coastline.

Latvia fully guarantees legal equality between women and men in employment and business. Latvia has one of the highest rates of women in science, technology and engineering, with 51% of scientists being women.



Latvians value their roots and cultural heritage: more than 1.2 million folk songs have been recorded, every school or village has a choir.

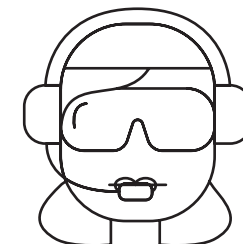


Photo: Jelgava.lv

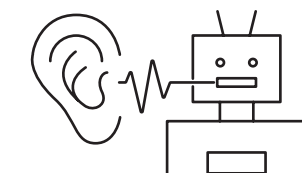
Every five years, the capital city of Riga hosts a week-long national **Song and Dance Festival**, where you can catch over 15,000 singers and over 16,000 dancers on stage at once.



54% of Latvia's territory is covered with forests. **Latvians champion the World Cleanup Day movement.**

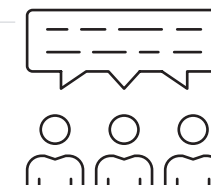


In the Latvian National Armed Forces, 16% of soldiers are women, and 30% of police officers are women.



Latvia is a frontrunner in **AI language technology development**, with expertise in machine translation and speech recognition.

Latvia promotes the sustainability of **low-density languages**. Latvian is a Baltic language spoken by 2 million people.







The logo features hidden lettering:  
LV – Latvia



The pixelated shape is rooted in  
Latvian ethnic ornaments symbolizing  
the radiant sun (*saule*)



The puzzle takes shape through smaller  
pixelated elements, symbolizing the notion  
that significant ideas and great ambitions  
often originate from a single, initial step



The curved "C" shape encapsulates  
the word "LATVIA", drawing attention  
to the logo's central element and bearing  
a resemblance to the horseshoe-shaped  
table of the UN Security Council