

LATVIA
Candidate for the United Nations Security Council
2026-2027

Latvia has presented its candidature for a non-permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council allocated to the Group of Eastern European States for the term of 2026-2027 in the 2025 elections.

If elected, Latvia will serve at the UN Security Council for the first time.

The candidature for the UN Security Council reflects Latvia's determination to uphold the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter, and its devotion to multilateralism. As a responsible member of the UN, Latvia is committed to taking on its own share of responsibility to ensure international peace and security.

Since regaining independence and joining the UN in 1991, Latvia has been a dedicated member of the UN. Latvia has been contributing to the rules-based international order, based on the principles of effective **multilateralism, international human rights and humanitarian law, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.**

Prevention of conflicts, protection of civilians in armed conflicts, as well as the peaceful resolution of disputes must remain a high priority of the UN, including through its **mediation and peacekeeping role.** Latvia has contributed to regional and international security and stability through sustained engagement in the UN, European Union, OSCE and NATO missions around the world. To promote greater responsibility and transparency through **arms control and international export control regimes**, Latvia has taken up an active role in the work related to Arms Trade Treaty, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme of Action.

Latvia is convinced that responsible action to achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals** will be key in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. A donor country for more than 15 years, Latvia contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through **development cooperation**, investing in socio-economic progress and eradication of poverty, fostering climate action, promoting good governance and digital transition. In its **global action** Latvia has been also focusing on strengthening of institutional resilience, education, promotion of digital skills, and inclusive participation of women and youth.

Latvia recognizes that **gender equality and empowerment of women** is essential for global security, peace and socio-economic development. Latvia is committed to the implementation of the **Women, Peace and Security agenda.**

Addressing **climate change and its effects** is our collective effort, including understanding of the security implications of climate change and water related challenges. Harnessing **innovation, including new technologies** has enormous potential to help tackling these issues. Latvia contributes with its experience in working towards sustainable solutions for access to clean **water** and combatting marine pollution. Latvia also pays specific attention to conservation of biodiversity and sustainable forest management by using digital technologies. To ensure that digital transformation brings opportunities for everyone, Latvia contributes to efforts to **bridge digital divides** within societies and between regions.

The global pandemic has exacerbated the need to continuously strengthen the resilience of countries and societies. Latvia participates in global vaccine sharing mechanism and bilaterally donates vaccines to countries from different regions.

Access to accurate, reliable and fact-based information, as well as media and information literacy is essential for societal resilience, cohesion and increasing trust among people and to institutions. Latvia has been a front-runner in responding to UN calls to counter **misinformation and disinformation**, and has taken the lead in addressing the issue globally.

Latvia has served on key UN bodies, including **Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council, Executive Board of UN WOMEN**. Latvia has been elected for the first time to **UN Commission on the Status of Women** and **Peacebuilding Commission**. The outstanding professional qualities of Latvian experts are reflected in their successful election to various UN bodies, including to the position of the **Vice-Chair of the IPCC Working Group II**, the **UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (SPT), the first ever Baltic States' representation at the **International Law Commission** (ILC), and to the **UN Committee against Torture** (CAT). Multilateral cooperation, partnerships and engagement on specific issues is pursued through membership to various UN groups of friends. Latvia is a member of cross-regional group to improve the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency of the UN Security Council (ACT Group).

Latvia consistently ensures that its financial contributions to the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets are made in full and on time, and provides **voluntary contributions** to specialized UN agencies and funds, including UNDP, UN OCHA, UNHCR, OHCHR, PBF, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNRWA, OSRSG-SVC, WFP, CERF Climate Action Account, SIDS4 High-Level conference and ICC Trust Fund for Victims.

As an elected UN Security Council member, Latvia will fully dedicate itself to contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and to making the UN Security Council more representative, transparent and efficient, so that it can effectively address the full range of current and evolving challenges and threats. We will engage in the work of the UN Security Council in a constructive, transparent and inclusive manner with openness and respect for the perspectives of all UN member states.