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Agenda item 31 (b)**

**Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of
mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict
prevention and resolution**

**Security Council
Seventy-fifth year**

**Letter dated 18 August 2020 from the representatives of Estonia,
Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

We have the honour to forward to you the joint declaration of the Presidents of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Poland addressing the worrisome situation in our neighbouring country, the Republic of Belarus. In the joint declaration, the authorities of Belarus are urged to end the use of force against civilians, respect fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of speech, media and assembly, release all detained protesters and start a dialogue with their people. The Presidents of the four neighbouring countries are also offering their mediation efforts for the peaceful solution of the current situation.

Further to the attached declaration, on 17 August, the four Presidents made a joint call for new elections in Belarus in line with democratic standards and with the presence of international observers.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, under agenda item 31 (b), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gert Auväärt
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Estonia

(Signed) Andrejs Pildegovičs
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Latvia

(Signed) Audra Plepytė
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Lithuania

(Signed) Mariusz Lewicki
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Poland



Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2020 from the representatives of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Call for action on Belarus by the Presidents of Lithuania, Poland, Latvia and Estonia

We, the Presidents of Lithuania, Poland, Latvia and Estonia, as regional neighbours of Belarus, members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, want Belarus to be a stable, democratic, independent and prosperous country. Therefore, we call upon the authorities of Belarus to:

1. De-escalate the situation and terminate the use of force against your people immediately. We urge them to stop violence and call for respect for fundamental freedoms, human and citizen rights, including the freedom of speech, media and assembly, and the safety of journalists;
2. Urgently release all detained protesters and stop further persecution;
3. Immediately initiate a dialogue with the Belarusian people. Hear the voice of your citizens and let them speak out freely. Based on the experience of our own societies, and on our personal experience, we urge you to organize a national reconciliation round table, comprised of representatives of the Government and civil society. This would represent an appropriate step in launching a genuine national dialogue. We strongly believe that dialogue is always the best path to advance social development, discuss reforms and the future of your country.

Should Belarussian authorities meet these requirements, the doors for cooperation with the international community shall remain open. Isolation is not a way to any nation's prosperity and development.

We stand ready to offer our mediation efforts to reach a peaceful solution in Belarus and to strengthen your country's independence and sovereignty.

13 August 2020
