



ASSOCIAÇÃO DOS BOLSEIROS DE INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA

## **On the conflict in Ukraine**

We, ABIC - Associação dos Bolseiros de Investigação Científica, strongly condemn the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. We express our deep solidarity and support with all the victims of war in Ukraine, and urge for a cease-fire and the peaceful resolution of this conflict.

We agree with the UN Charter and with the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic regarding international relations (Article 7). We thus uphold all diplomatic efforts designed to rapidly bring this conflict to an end and reject any policy that escalates confrontation and aggression, which may lead to profound consequences for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and to all of Europe. We firmly believe that scientific cooperation is crucial for the development of peace and social progress. As such, cooperation and collaboration with academic communities of Belarus and Russia should be maintained. To cut or suspend these ties will only damage the exchange of information, quality of research, academic freedom, and will ultimately undermine future relations and peace between peoples, which should never be subject to the will of governments.

We finally express our support to all of the scientific and academic communities in Ukraine, regardless of nationality, namely students, staff, researchers, and teachers. We simultaneously sympathize with the Ukrainian students and researchers living in Portugal, who are in constant worry and fear for their families, and with Russian and Belarussian students and researchers.

ABIC reiterates its deepest concern with the condition of all peoples and hopes for a rapid and peaceful solution.

Lisbon, 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2022

The Board of ABIC