

Bled Appeal, May 2014

Today all the world is watching what is happening in Ukraine. At stake is not only the future of the country, but also the destiny of its people and of Europe as a whole. In order to appease the situation and to bring long awaited stability to the country all the actions of both sides of the conflict should be legitimized, observed and approved by international community, starting from Presidential elections scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2014, followed by the Parliamentary elections and then followed by Constitutional reform, performed and approved by all acting political sides of Ukraine.

The Writers for Peace Committee of PEN international encourages all stakeholders in Ukraine and outside Ukraine to persevere in seeking a peaceful settlement of differences through dialogue and openness to compromise.

The WfPC reaffirms the Bled Peace Manifesto, adopted by PEN International at its Reykjavik Congress in September 2013 in conformity with the vocation expressed in the PEN Charter to work for peace through literature and to recognize the common aspirations of all members of the human family and the commonalities of writers in all nations.

The WfPC urges writers to exercise their freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association to demand respect for the sovereignty of the Ukrainian peoples, who alone have the democratic right to determine their own future. The human rights, including linguistic rights, of all Ukrainians must be guaranteed in solidarity with the United Nations General Assembly and other institutions, which are invited to promote confidence building and to exercise their influence on the leaders of all governments concerned so as to prevent further interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine, in keeping with articles 1 and 2 of the UN Charter.