



Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent of Iceland, at the 1382nd Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 14 July 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

While Iceland aligns with the Statement of the European Union on this agenda item, I would also like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

In violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, international law and OSCE commitments, the Russian Federation continues its brutal and unjustified war against Ukraine. In so doing, the Russian Federation also continues to violate the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Ukrainian people, including their most fundamental right to life.

The guarantee of human rights of fundamental freedoms has been agreed upon by all participating States in the Helsinki Final Act and various international human rights treaties. Every day, as credible reports have confirmed, the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under international human rights law, as well as international humanitarian law.

Through indiscriminate attacks and use of explosive weapons in residential and highly populated areas, Russian troops continue to kill, wound, and traumatize civilians, including children, destroying their schools, hospitals, and their homes. UNICEF has reported that at least two children are killed daily and at least four injured in Ukraine. In addition to this devastating immediate human-cost of the war and the destruction it has caused within the country, we must also note with immense regret the long-term impact conflict and war has on populations, including young people, and future generations.

Mr. Chair,

We continue to be extremely alarmed by reports of the systematic use of sexual violence as a weapon of war by Russian troops in Ukraine.

At the same time we also witness an extremely concerning backlash against women's rights, in the OSCE region and beyond, where Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights are being violated and challenged.

International human rights law constitutes our obligations and the rights of women and human rights must be protected, respected, and fulfilled.

Mr. Chair,

The primary victims of the war are the people of Ukraine, but we also wish to note the consequences that are felt globally. Because of Russia's use of food supplies as a weapon, the war has also exacerbated a global food crisis. In hunger hotspots, catastrophic conditions of acute food insecurity are expected, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Food Programme.

Behind the false narrative and propagandistic statements of the Russian Federation we also witness seeming detachment from the brutal reality of the cost and consequences of their actions in Ukraine. Yet, we cannot but continue to call on Russia to respect and fulfil its international commitments and obligations in good faith. Withdraw its troops and stop the war.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine. We stand with the Ukrainian people and call for accountability for all crimes committed during this unprovoked and horrific war of aggression.

I thank you.