



Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1384th Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 28 July 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

While my mission aligns with the EU Statement, I'd like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

From the onset of Russia's invasion, the Russian Federation has attempted to justify its invasion by twisting reality, suppressing truth and bending and breaking its international obligations. But the world sees through the distortion and international law is clear. Obligations that Russia has voluntarily agreed to be bound by, are being gravely violated every day.

Mr. Chair, dear colleagues,

We made our promises to the future, not to repeat the mistakes of the past and build together a global and regional security structure where respect for the rule of law, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms were our guiding principles. For decades we have been striving to build this future together, including within our organization, the OSCE, which is now being immensely challenged and undermined by the Russian Federation engaging in war, armed aggression and the use of force against its sovereign, independent neighboring state, Ukraine.

In recent weeks and months, we have witnessed the breach of our core values and most fundamental rules. The truth is that Russia, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, has become the vengeful destroyer of the rule of law. Russia is breaking its own commitments and the whole world will suffer.

The consequences of Russia's premeditated and cruel war against a sovereign state, against Ukraine, are horrific. The extent of the atrocities committed by Russian troops against Ukrainians continue to come to light. We are both shocked and devastated from hearing testimonies by victims of filtration camps, one of the many horrors taking place every minute of every day in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. It is children, individuals, and families who are the victims.

Consequences have also been and will increasingly be felt on a global level, as a serious threat to security on many fronts, including economic, energy, food and nuclear security, and the looming threat of famine for a great proportion of the global population where those in poverty suffer most.

Most of us represented in this room are grateful for belonging to a global order that condemns violence and destruction such as that which Russia is committing against and within Ukraine. It is imperative that we do our utmost to protect and maintain an international rule-based order. Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations is an essential component of that. The future of us all is at stake, and we face immense challenges.

We once again repeat the call on Russia, and its co-aggressor Belarus, to stop its aggression causing destruction and suffering, to respect and uphold its international obligations and commitments, and to engage in diplomatic and peaceful means of resolution, **in good faith.**

Iceland continues to stand fully with the Ukrainian nation and reiterates its unwavering support to Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and waters.

I thank you for your attention.