Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 85th Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council, Vienna, 18 February 2022

Activation of paragraph (16.3) of the Vienna Document 2011 on the Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, Chapter III "Mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities"

Mr. Chair,

My delegation thanks the Chair of the Permanent Council and the Chair of the Forum for Security Cooperation for organizing today's Special Joint Meeting.

While Iceland aligns with the statement of the European Union, I ask for the floor to make few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

We have all agreed to our joint OSCE commitments which are politically binding. Not only do these commitments reflect our obligations under international law, respecting them is also fundamental to the very security of our region. Here, *the Vienna Document - and its measures of risk reduction, transparency and confidence and security building - plays a key role*.

We stress that the Risk Reduction Mechanisms outlined in the Vienna Document were designed for participating states to voice concerns and find

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meaningful ways to ensure transparency, thereby dispelling such concerns and de-escalating tensions. This cannot be disrespected nor taken as an act of hostility.

Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have the full right to request clarification of any unusual and unscheduled activities of military significance adjacent to its borders, as provided by Paragraph 16, Chapter III of the Vienna Document and to call on Russia and Belarus to provide substantive information regarding their unscheduled military activity.

Mr. Chair,

Iceland, like other peace-loving states, is deeply concerned about the tensions on the Ukrainian border and the risk of a military escalation. We urge all partners to respect and make full use of relevant political and diplomatic means to address this serious situation.

Thank you.