



Statement by Ms. María Mjöll Jónsdóttir, Director General of the Directorate of International Affairs and Development Co-operation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, at the 1369th Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 13 April 2022

Mr. Chair,

Iceland aligns itself with the statement made by Romania, as well as the statement of the EU.

I wish to make short remarks in my national capacity.

Iceland is among the 45 OSCE states that invoked the Moscow Mechanism to address the human rights and humanitarian impacts of the Russian Federation's invasion and acts of war, supported by Belarus, on the people of Ukraine, within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders and territorial waters.

This was a necessary step to take. Today, we have listened to our expert-team reporting on the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in Ukraine in the wake of the invasion.

I thank you all, Professors Benedek, Bilkova, and Sassoli for your tireless work in preparing this report in such a short period of time. Let me also express gratitude to ODIHR for facilitating the work of the mission.

Mr. Chair,

The fact-finding mission has confirmed what we had feared and heard from civilians and media. Human rights violations are confirmed; civilians seem to

have been widely targeted in this war of choice by Russia, supported by Belarus. The numerous incidents cited here today are beyond appalling.

We had all hoped that through our common commitments and respect for international law, Europe would never witness such horrors again. Women, children and the elderly have been forced to flee their homes in desperation. Others have not been so lucky; too many have lost their lives or been locked in in besieged towns and cities with no means of escape. Fathers have been left behind in Ukraine to defend their country from an aggressor who has no principles, honours no commitments and has no regard human life.

Yet, we cannot but repeat our call on Russia to stop the atrocities, to withdraw its forces from Ukraine, and to adhere to obligations and commitments.

Mr. Chairperson,

The findings of this report need to be taken seriously and used to ensure accountability. This also calls for an immediate follow-up in the OSCE through the further use of its human dimension tools and mechanisms.

Thank you Mr. Chair, and I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.