



**Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1378<sup>th</sup> Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 16 June 2022**

Thank you Mr. Chair.

While Iceland fully aligns herself with the statement of the European Union, I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Iceland continues to stand with Ukraine. We stand with respect for international law and commitments, human rights and fundamental freedoms and maintenance of peace and security.

The Decalogue of the Helsinki Final Act codifies the fundamental principles to guide relations between States in the OSCE region, that participating States commit themselves to respect, including the sovereign equality of States, the territorial integrity of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Russian Federation attempts to rewrite the Helsinki Final Act and international rule-based order, to justify using might and power in its unjustified, unnecessary, and brutal war against Ukraine. It is a serious threat to the international rule-based order and the European Security Architecture we have built over decades.

Maintaining the international rule of law, ensuring accountability and restoring peace and security, is critical and challenges to the rule-based order are unacceptable and frightening.

The primary victims of this horrific war by the Russian Federation are the people of Ukraine. The humanitarian situation under the control of Russian forces in temporary occupied territories of Ukraine are alarming and the Russian military continues to violate International Humanitarian Law by indiscriminate targeting of civilians and civilian objects and infrastructure.

The Russian Federation is using food as a weapon of war, targeting Ukraine's economy and causing a global food crisis. Bearing in mind that the only real solution is for Russia to cease its military aggression, we also call on Russia to immediately end its sabotaging and blockading of Ukrainian ports.

We call on Russia to fulfil its international commitments and obligations under international law in good faith. Withdraw its troops and stop this brutal, unjustified and horrific war.