



Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1380th Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 5 July 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

While aligning with the European Union, allow me to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Since the 24th of February we have witnessed immense human suffering as a consequence of the Russian Federation's brutal and unjustified war on Ukraine

Horrific reports, images, and testimonies of indiscriminate attacks, including indiscriminate shelling of residential areas, schools, and hospitals, and targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure have steadily emerged as a clear pattern of conduct by the Russian armed forces.

We continue to be extremely alarmed by reports of massacres, forced deportations and the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war. Civilians must never be considered as targets and sexual violence cannot be tolerated as a by-product of war. Committing atrocities against civilians is unacceptable and in blatant violation of the most basic human rights and international humanitarian law.

Various international measures have already been taken to document and investigate these crimes, including by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the UN Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, and the OSCE Moscow Mechanism. This is in addition to national investigations and the brave work of civil society and NGOs in Ukraine that are often at great risk documenting evidence to ensure that there will be no impunity.

Mr. Chair,

For all crimes and violations, there must be accountability and justice for victims. Iceland supports all international and national efforts to ensure this. International law and the international rule-based order must be respected and protected. In addition, we must ensure that in all efforts a gender perspective be integrated throughout.

We strongly condemn Russia's decision to launch a full-scale aggression against Ukraine and remain appalled by the atrocities committed against civilians by Russian troops. We demand that Russia immediately stop its aggression and unconditionally withdraw its troops.

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.