



**Statement by Thorbjörn Jónsson, Special Envoy for Arms Control,  
Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, MFA Iceland. 1391st Reinforced  
Permanent Council, 29 September 2022.**

**The Russian Federation’s Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine:  
Illegal attempts to legalize occupation of the eastern Ukraine**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

While Iceland aligns with the EU statement, allow me to make the following remarks.

We continue to witness with extreme concern, the Russian Federation’s systematic violations and abuses of the most fundamental rules of international law and our OSCE principles and commitments.

Russia’s complete disregard for international humanitarian law and human rights law is appalling, confirmed by horrifying reports of mass graves and atrocities committed by Russian troops in Ukraine.

Iceland condemns in the strongest terms the Russian Federation’s illegal, sham “referenda” on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, which took place under military coercion. These so-called referenda are a serious, blatant violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine, and we will never recognise this attempt by Russia to annex Ukrainian territory.

Allow me to recall the message from the Reykjavik Summit of the nuclear powers in 1986, “nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”. We strongly condemn the rhetoric of the Russian Federation to resort to the use of nuclear

weapons in its illegal, unjustified, and senseless war against Ukraine. It is tragic that an OSCE participating State continues to undermine security and stability so grossly in our region and in doing so threatening the arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and the international rules-based order.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine and its people, and we again call on the Russian Federation to respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders and to immediately cease its military actions and withdraw its troops and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, including all illegally annexed regions.

Mr Chair, colleagues

The whole world has its eyes on the unlawful and unjust actions of Russia. We demand that the Russian Federation act in accordance with its international commitments and that those responsible for violations of international law be held accountable for their actions. We will continue to support any and all efforts to ensure justice and accountability.

I thank you.