



**Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Warsaw Human Dimension Conference. 26 September 2022. Opening Session.**

Thank you, Mr Chair,

While Iceland aligns with the Statement of the European Union, allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Russia has misused the consensus rule to block the decision on HDIM, instead of using the opportunity to meaningfully engage in dialogue on the implementation of our commitments. HDIM is a unique platform and the most important gathering within the Human Dimension as it brings Participating States and civil society together at the table. The OSCE human dimension commitments play a vital role in preserving democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms within our region.

I wish to express Iceland's sincere gratitude to the Polish Chairpersonship for convening the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, during this very difficult time for our organization and the OSCE region, caused by the Russia's war against Ukraine.

The Warsaw Human Dimension Conference is an important opportunity for us, the participating States, to be held accountable and sharpen our focus in the implementation of our OSCE commitments. It is more important now than ever to stand united in support of Ukraine, the protection of our common values and implementation of our OSCE commitments.

Mr Chair,

The Russian Federation's cruel and unnecessary war of aggression against Ukraine is in blatant violation of international law, including the UN Charter. It is in violation of our commitments within all dimensions and our fundamental OSCE documents, including the Helsinki Final Act.

The catastrophic impact this war has had on Ukraine and the Ukrainian nation is devastating and haunting images and reports continue to come to light. The

Russian Federation is systematically engaged in violations of human rights and humanitarian law, completely disregarding its international commitments.

We urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease its war against Ukraine, respect international law and its international commitments, and give peace a chance. We call for accountability for all violations of international law and full implementation of OSCE commitments.

Iceland will continue to stand with Ukraine, its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. We will continue to stand with human rights and dignity, fundamental freedoms, and international law.

We look forward to actively listening and participating in the coming discussions and events. Once again, allow me to thank the Polish chair for their hospitality and ODIHR for organizing the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference.

I thank you.