



**Statement by Ambassador of Iceland, Kristín A. Árnadóttir,
at the 1403 Special Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council, 22 December 2022.**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Mr Mykola Lukasjuk, I thank you greatly for being with the OSCE Permanent Council today and let me express our deep concern for your people and our unwavering solidarity with Ukraine. Iceland is a small country and heavily relies on the international rule of law, on democracy and freedom. We take every opportunity to show our support by using our voice. This time from the snowy Iceland.

Iceland has aligned herself with the statement made by the European Union but I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to thank the Polish Chair, dear Adam, for convening this Special Session of the Permanent Council. We are meeting at critical times, as the Russian Federation continues its brutal and illegal war against Ukraine into the winter, weaponizing the cold, destroying critical civilian infrastructure, damaging energy and heat facilities.

At this very moment, the most fundamental rules of international law, including the principles governing relations between states expressed in the UN Charter as well as the Helsinki Final Act, voluntarily agreed upon by all of us, are being blatantly violated and undermined.

On the 24th of February of this year, the Russian Federation made the deliberate choice to launch a brutal, unprovoked, and illegal war against Ukraine, an independent and sovereign country. Russia's war on Ukraine is a direct and serious attack on the values we hold so dear and the multilateral system. Never have our commitments been so seriously violated.

Colleagues, we sit here as representatives of our countries. But above all, we are all human beings, equal in dignity and rights. Not only has the Russian Federation violated our agreed commitments and international obligations. The most basic principles and values of morals, religion, and ethics on a local and global scale, including love for one's neighbour, the protection of human dignity, and the sanctity of life, are also being trampled upon by the Russian Federation waging a senseless war against its neighbour, the sovereign and independent State, Ukraine. Those responsible should be ashamed of themselves and the horrors committed in their name and the name of their country.

The continued dark and destructive aggression, when the holidays and the celebration of light is just around the corner, is simply heart-breaking. With a heavy heart we continue to call on Russia to stop waging its war, and choose peace.

There must be justice, and accountability for all crimes and violations. Our commitments and the values we have agreed to protect are too important, too urgent, for there to be any impunity.

In their courageous defence for their country, the Ukrainian nation has shown, that democracy, rule of law, freedom, and human rights are values worth fighting for. We must support them, for as long as it takes, through these dark and cold times.

I thank you.