



Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1367th Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 7 April 2022

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.

Mr. Chair, dear colleagues,

At the outset, let me convey my deepest condolences to you Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk and to the Ukrainian people, those that have lost their loved ones and have suffered gravely because of the horrific invasion and war by President Putin which enters its 43rd day today. We all grieve with you.

We also offer our sympathy to innocent Russian civilians who will continue to suffer because of their President. Young men are being sacrificed.

Since the start of this unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war the position of Russian authorities is that they are in their full right to invade a sovereign independent State. In this room, and elsewhere, we have had to witness again and again the malicious disinformation campaign of Russia's representatives. We are constantly reminded of the cruel face of this war, systematically waged against civilians and civilian objects. And it grows worse every week as devastating cruelty unfolds.

Let us not forget that this is a war of choice. This choice was made by President Putin in full knowledge of its contradictions to international law and the UN Charter.

Russia's military aggression has caused the tragic loss of life, immense human suffering, the forced displacement of millions and environmental and cultural destruction. It has jeopardized the safety of nuclear power plants and undermined the security and stability of our region as well as of the world.

International humanitarian law and international human rights law are our joint commitments and our obligations, and they exist for a reason. To protect and respect the sanctity of human life and dignity. And to pave a road to a sustainable future where peace and stability is a precondition. Where diplomacy prevails.

We regret that the Russian Federation has blatantly ignored the order of the ICJ from 16 March and continues to ignore its obligations under international law. We must continue to urge the Russian Federation to refrain from further threats and aggression against Ukraine.

Iceland was among the 41 States Parties to the Rome Statute that referred the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court and fully supports the efforts of the ICC Prosecutor. Iceland was also among the 45 OSCE participating States invoking the Moscow Mechanism. Violations of international law call for the international community to request accountability.

The international community will hold Russia accountable for breaches of commitments and war crimes.

I kindly ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

I thank you Mr. Chair.