



**Statement by Permanent Representative Kristín A. Árnadóttir.
1399 Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 17 November 2022.
Russia's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine.**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

While Iceland aligns with the statement of the European Union, allow me also to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

To begin with we offer our deep condolences to the families of the victims of the explosion in Poland at the border with Ukraine, last Tuesday.

The Russian Federation's full-scale invasion and brutal war against Ukraine is in blatant violation of international law, including the UN Charter, and we condemn it in the strongest possible terms.

The Russian Federation, aided by Belarus, continues to deliberately violate, and undermine the founding principles of our organization and the right of every State to sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Russia's aggression has caused tragic loss of life and immense suffering to the people of Ukraine. It has caused the largest humanitarian catastrophe and refugee crisis in Europe since the second World War.

Appalling evidence and reports of the complete disregard by the Russian armed forces of international humanitarian and human rights law continues to come to light, including from the newly liberated territories, including Kherson. Targeted attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure amount to war crimes and deserve to be condemned.

Mr. Chair,

We will continue to support all efforts to ensure accountability for all crimes committed by Russia. Those responsible must be held to account and there can be no impunity.

Earlier this week, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, which Iceland voted in favour of, calling for Russia to pay reparations to Ukraine, to compensate for the immense damage, loss and injury caused.

Iceland strongly believes that Russia must be held accountable for its internationally wrongful acts against Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We must preserve the legitimacy of our commitments, protect the international rule-based order, and uphold international law.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support and solidarity with Ukraine, which you can count on for as long as it takes.

We express our strong condemnation of the missile attacks fired by Russia on Ukrainian cities all over Ukraine. Russia bears the responsibility for the damage and harm caused.

We urge Russia to cease this senseless war, abide by international law and uphold its international commitments. Russia must completely and unilaterally withdraw its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

I thank you.