



**Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland,
H.E. Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir
At the 1412 Reinforced meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
Vienna, 24 February 2023**

Mr. Chair,

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Today marks one year since Russia started the largest conflict on the European continent since the Second World War.

For 365 days have the people of Ukraine had to endure the daily horrors of war, with Russia demonstrating complete disregard for human life and dignity.

Russia's unjustified and unprovoked war against Ukraine so clearly violates everything that our international order stands for. It is a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter, and our OSCE principles and commitments.

And as reports have so clearly demonstrated, Russia's respect for international humanitarian and human rights law is simply non-existent.

The consequences of Russia's war are felt far and wide – not only by the Ukrainian people, or Europe, but in all corners of the world. As too often is the case, the most vulnerable suffer the most.

The generations before us built a system of international law from the ruins of two world wars and their unforgettable horrors. This we must never forget, or what a world dominated by violence and might instead of rules and right looks like.

Ultimately, this is a war about values. In their courageous defence of their country, the Ukrainian nation has shown that the values we build our multilateral system on are worth fighting for. It is our duty to support Ukraine, for as long as it takes.

Let us be clear, it is only Russia that can end the war. Russia must stop its attacks, stop violating international law, stop this madness. Russia must completely and unconditionally withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and must comply with its international obligations.

Accountability for international crimes committed within the context of the war, including the crime of aggression, is vital to ensure justice and reparations. Impunity for the perpetrators is not an option.

Iceland remains unwavering in its support and solidarity with Ukraine. This has become one of the main priorities of our Presidency of the Council of Europe, and we intend to do our best to ensure that the outcome of the Reykjavík Summit in May further strengthens our collective resolve.

We must continue to demonstrate strength, resilience, and unity.

We must never tire in advocating for democracy, freedom, rule of law, and a peace that is based on justice.

We must all do our best to ensure that Ukraine wins this war.

I thank you.