



**Joint Nordic-Baltic Statement on the Russian Federation's  
Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine**

**Delivered by Foreign Minister of Iceland,  
Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir**

**At the 1407 OSCE Permanent Council, 19 January 2023**

*Thank you, Mr. Chair,*

Let me reiterate my appreciation for being with you here today.

I deliver this statement on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Iceland.

All States represented in this room have agreed to refrain from the threat or use of force, to respect sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Russia's war on Ukraine – with the support of Belarus - is a direct and serious attack on these core principles and the commitments upon which this organization is founded. It constitutes the gravest and most serious threat to European security since the second World War.

In the past few days, we have seen that Russia's attempts at terrorizing the general public in Ukraine are ongoing, including direct attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The complete disregard for human lives and human dignity, the indiscriminate attacks – including direct strikes on residential buildings, as the one earlier this week in Dnipro -, the weaponization of the energy sector and the endangering of nuclear security are all becoming hallmarks of Russia's war.

We demand the immediate cessation of the war of aggression against Ukraine. Russia has a duty to honour its obligations under international law and completely and unconditionally withdraw its troops and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

The Nordic and Baltic countries remain unwavering in their support and solidarity with the people of Ukraine, as well as for Ukraine's right to choose its own security arrangements and foreign policy course.

We have and will continue to provide political, economic, military, and humanitarian support to Ukraine for as long as it takes. We will also never cease supporting Ukraine's steps towards its full integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

We also lend our firm support to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Peace Formula in full respect of international law and OSCE principles and commitments.

We are also committed to do everything in our power to support Ukraine's rebuilding and reconstruction efforts. The OSCE is a valuable platform to do so, and we firmly support the recently launched OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine as well as the valuable work of the institutions.

Let me take this opportunity to condemn the continued detention of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission staff and stress our call for their immediate and unconditional release. We are also very concerned about reports received last weekend that dozens of OSCE armoured vehicles, that were in Russia following SMM's evacuation, have been transferred to Eastern Ukraine, where they may end up being used in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. This is completely unacceptable.

There must be justice and accountability for all violations of international law. We will continue to support efforts for accountability to ensure that those responsible for the crime of aggression and all international crimes committed in Ukraine will be held accountable for their actions and will be brought to justice.

*Mr. Chair, Excellencies,*

Peace and security.

Justice and Cooperation.

Improved and strengthened friendly relations.

These were our goals, our commitments, in 1975 when the Helsinki Final Act was signed, almost half a century ago.

For long, this organization has been a platform for dialogue, diplomacy, co-operation, and trust building.

Russia must stop the war and restore the respect for our common commitments. Because the bottom line is, as my North Macedonian colleague, Bujar Osmani, emphasised in this room last week, it's about people.

We urge you to continue your dedicated work.

Our vision and values are peace, cooperation, and comprehensive security. These cannot be compromised.

I thank you.