



Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland. 1020 Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-Operation, 7 September 2022.

Mr Chair, dear Colleagues.

While aligning with the Statement of the European Union, allow me also to add a few remarks and express my gratitude to Belgium for presenting the Chair's priorities and program for the Forum for Security Co-Operation this coming trimester.

Belgium assumes the FSC Chairpersonship during an extremely challenging time. Today, we are faced with a humanitarian and security crisis, caused by an OSCE participating State, Russia, with the support of another, Belarus. The very foundations of our organization have been shaken by Russia's illegal, brutal and unjustified war against Ukraine.

We are extremely grateful and supportive of the Belgian chairpersonship and their outline for the coming four months. We hope this Forum will strengthen and resume the important role of facilitating dialogue and cooperation on the politico-military aspects of security, transparency, and trust and confidence building measures.

We highly support that the Belgian Chair's priorities are reflective of the current security landscape in our region, in particular regarding Russia's war against Ukraine. Russia's war against Ukraine has caused indescribable human suffering, damage, and destruction, and has undermined security within all dimensions of the OSCE.

We welcome the well-balanced program outlined by the Belgian chair, as well as the Security Dialogue on important, timely and relevant topics for today's security situation, caused by Russia's war against Ukraine, including on Women Peace and Security. We are particularly looking forward to discussing WPS, a cross-cutting issue which has a central role to play in this Forum and all three dimensions of the OSCE. Achieving sustainable peace, stability and security is an impossible endeavour without women, their participation, voices and leadership.

In closing, allow me to reiterate our unwavering support to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We will continue to stand with the international rule of law, human rights and the principles of

multilateralism and diplomacy. The Russian Federation must cease its military operations and withdraw its troops completely from the territory of Ukraine and abide by its international obligations and commitments.

I wish you, Ambassador, and your able team the very best success in the coming months, as I assure you of Iceland's full support for your efforts.

I thank you.