



Statement by Ms. Eva Dröfn Hassell Gudmundsdóttir, Temporary Officer at the Permanent Mission of Iceland, at the 1371st Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 28 April 2022

Iceland fully aligns herself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Please allow me to make a few remarks on behalf of the Icelandic Delegation.

Firstly, we express our appreciation for the convening of the Human Dimension and Economic and Environmental Committees this week, both meetings dedicated to critical topics related to the situation in Ukraine and Russian aggression, on the Rights of Children and Youth in Conflict and Growing risks to security from environmental threats and damage to critical energy infrastructure.

We heard expert testimonies stressing that the war has had and will continue to have long-lasting tragic consequences beyond what we can fully comprehend today, especially for Ukrainian children and youth and their future. Around half of the 5.3 million refugees that have fled the war in Ukraine are children, and millions are internally displaced, also putting them at immense risk of trafficking and exploitation.

Russia's troops, including through indiscriminate attacks, continue to kill, wound, and traumatize millions of children, destroying their schools, hospitals, and their homes. In addition to the devastating human cost of the war, it has caused the destruction of the environment and ecosystems, cultural and religious buildings, and civilian infrastructure. It has also jeopardized trust and friendly relations among States and threatens nuclear, food and energy security worldwide.

Mr. Chair,

If there has ever been urgency to strengthen our commitment to Resolution 1325, it is now. The adoption of resolution 1325 codified that women's full and meaningful participation in decision making, negotiations and peacebuilding makes a positive difference for sustainable security.

It is imperative that we address pressing security challenges facing the OSCE region and the world through diplomacy within a rule-based international order where the UN Charter, international law and OSCE commitments are respected. Russia's war of aggression, flagrant violations of international law, and the climate crisis all pose a serious threat to to all of us. Children and young people look to global leaders and question, how will the world they inherit be.

We reiterate the call on Russia, and its co-aggressor Belarus, to put an end to the destruction and suffering it is causing, withdraw its troops, and adhere to its international obligations and commitments. Engage in diplomatic and peaceful means of resolution, in good faith. Let me express Iceland's full and unwavering support to Ukraine and Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and waters.

I thank you Mr. Chair and would like to ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.