



Statement by H.E. Mr. Martin Eyjólfsson, Permanent Secretary of State of Iceland, at the 1357th (Reinforced) Permanent Council, Vienna, 22 February 2022.

Mr. Chair, distinguished colleagues,

Today is a dark day for the OSCE, our region, and the world.

Iceland joins other in condemning Russia 's recognition of Donetsk and Luhansk independence under the threat of military incursion – an act that violates Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, an act that is inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the founding principles of the OSCE.

Russia's decision to move troops into these areas under the disguise of peacekeeping is yet another deeply worrying escalation of events.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognised borders. We call on Russia to immediately revoke its recognition of Donetsk and Luhansk and take concrete steps to de-escalate the situation, including by pulling back its massive forces surrounding Ukraine.

Nobody wants a war and the human suffering it entails.

Mr. Chairman,

I request that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

I thank you.