



Statement of Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1356th Special Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 21 February 2022.

Mr. Chair,

While Iceland aligns with the statement of the European Union, I ask for the floor to make few remarks in my national capacity.

Today's meeting takes place in the context of an extremely worrying situation in and around Ukraine.

Despite repeated international calls for de-escalation and notwithstanding vigorous attempts to pursue paths of diplomacy and political dialogue, the situation in Eastern Ukraine only keeps deteriorating and the latest news from Belarus are especially worrying.

Our joint OSCE commitments reflect our obligations under international law and remain fundamental to the very security of our region.

Through its significant military build-up, its rejection so far to engage in dialogue and transparency measures in line with the provisions of the Vienna Document, and its undermining of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission, Russia is striking at the very vision upon which our organization is built, and the European Security order relies on. We call on Russia to immediately revert from this dangerous path.

Ordinary citizens who desire peace, deserve to be spared from violence and war, and the threats of violence and war. Sadly, this has become a daily reality for too many.

We further reiterate our call for the full and swift implementation of the Minsk

agreements and underline our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chair,

As has been said so often over the past days, the door for diplomacy and dialogue must remain open. A peaceful resolution of this situation is the only acceptable way forward.

I thank you.

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