



Statement by H.E. Ms. Thordís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, at the 1358th (Reinforced) Permanent Council, Vienna, 24 February 2022.

Today we are witnessing what we all feared the most.

Despite the diplomatic path being clear and open, Russia has chosen a different path – a path of war, destruction, and human suffering.

Iceland condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the brutal and unprovoked attack of Russia on Ukraine. Russia's action is a flagrant violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and is in full contradiction to the Helsinki Final Act.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We stand with the people of Ukraine. Russia must pay a heavy economic and political price for its actions. Iceland is firmly united with our friends and allies in this regard.

We request the Russian Federation to immediately pull back its military forces and cease its unjustified invasion of Ukraine. Innocent civilians that have done absolutely nothing wrong are already suffering, lives are already being lost and we are looking at consequences that will not only be horrific for Ukraine, but also tragic for the whole of Europe and the world.

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

I thank you.