



**Statement by Eva Dröfn Hassell Guðmundsdóttir, Temporary Officer at the
1385th Special Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 9 August 2022**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Over 5 months have passed since the escalation of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and the Russian Federation launched its full scale, brutal and unjustified war, a direct attack on our common values and commitments and in violation of international law.

Along with the immediate damage and destruction, where civilians are the primary victims, Russia's war will have devastating long-term consequences on populations, including young people and future generations.

We are highly alarmed that the Russian Federation is recklessly threatening the safety of Ukraine's nuclear plants, risking a nuclear catastrophe, radiation leak and pollution.

The war has already caused widespread and serious damage to the environment, polluting water, land, and air, causing immediate and long-term damage on the human health, ecosystems, and economy of Ukraine. The consequences of the war are also felt on a global scale.

Mr Chair.

We are extremely concerned over the impact and immediate threat that the war poses to Ukraine's 7.5 million children as Russian troops continue to kill, wound, and traumatize civilians.

By its military aggression, Russian troops are damaging and destroying livelihoods, schools, and homes, as well as cultural property. The Russian armed forces have also targeted health care facilities and infrastructure in Ukraine, killing and seriously injuring patients and health workers, including babies, children, and pregnant women.

Iceland reiterates. International humanitarian and human rights law must be upheld, respected, and protected. Our future is at stake.

We once again repeat the call on Russia, to respect and fulfil its international commitments and obligations in good faith. Withdraw its troops and stop the war, to stop causing destruction and suffering.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support to Ukraine and Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We stand with the Ukrainian nation and call for accountability for all crimes committed during this illegal and brutal war of aggression.

I thank you for your attention.