



**Statement by**

**H.E. Mrs. Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir,**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland,  
at the 1443 Reinforced Meeting of the  
OSCE Permanent Council**

**26 September 2023**

*Mister Chairman in Office of the OSCE,  
Madame Secretary-General of the OSCE,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies.*

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Bujar Osmani, Chairman in Office of the OSCE and the Foreign Minister of North Macedonia, for convening this Reinforced Meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE.

Before this meeting lie urgent matters that require our immediate attention and our joint solutions. The future of this organization is at stake. It is an organization that for long was a platform for dialogue, diplomacy, co-operation, and trust building.

Within the OSCE, the Russian Federation has also made the deliberate choice to sabotage and undermine our work by blocking consensus on decisions of critical importance for the future and functioning of the OSCE.

We all know what these issues are, and we all know why the Russian Federation is blocking consensus. The reasons are all rooted in their ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

It is hard to determine that one of these issues is more important than the other. Allow me to mention them briefly.

Iceland supports the candidacy of Estonia for assuming the important position of the OSCE Chairpersonship in 2024. Should there be another feasible and constructive solution for the Chairpersonship in sight, Iceland is willing to consider that in a positive spirit.

Iceland supports a renewed mandates for Mrs. Helga Maria Schmid as Secretary General, and Director of ODIHR, the Representative for Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities. They have all fulfilled their mandate and the mandate of their organizations.

And last but not least, the Unified Budget for the OSCE has to be adopted. Running the organization on monthly allotments based on 2021, is untenable and not sustainable for long-term planning or proper functioning of our organization. We need a Unified Budget to support and continue to deliver on the important mandate of the OSCE, which remains an essential part of the European security architecture.

*Mr. Chair.*

To conclude, allow me to assure you all of Iceland's continued and full support for the work of the OSCE. We remain convinced of the value of the OSCE, its field missions and independent institutions. It is a unique organization and important platform for dialogue and cooperation.

Allow me also to reiterate Iceland's deep and unwavering solidarity and support to the Ukrainian nation and the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

*I thank you, Mr. Chair.*