



**Statement by Ms. María Mjöll Jónsdóttir,
Director General of the Directorate for International Affairs and Policy
at the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference,
Vienna, 26-27 June 2024**

Thank you, Madame Chair.

Almost 50 years ago, this organization was founded on the conviction that the only way to ensure security in Europe was through a collective commitment to shared principles and values, that disputes be resolved in a peaceful manner, in accordance with international law.

The multilateral system was created to maintain peace and security, promote justice and cooperation, and safeguard our shared commitments and laws. Despite its imperfections, it is vastly and completely superior to any other system for resolving issues and disputes between States. Those who built this system from the ashes of two world wars, were acutely aware of this.

Nevertheless, the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, continues its full-blown war of aggression against Ukraine. Not only has Russia declared war on Ukraine, it has also completely disregarded the foundations of peaceful international relations and the European Security Order, including the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

Madame Chair,

All reports stemming from the international system, including by the OSCE Moscow Mechanism, continue to conclude that Russia's war is marked by serious and systematic violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, some of which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. Iceland condemns in the strongest possible terms the continued and deliberate attacks by the Russian Federation on civilians and civilian infrastructure, causing unspeakable suffering and destruction.

Additionally, Russia's withdrawal from the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) and its withdrawal of ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) demonstrate its ongoing disregard for arms control and its intent to undermine the international system.

In the same manner, Russia continues to block the adoption of the agenda within the Forum for Security Cooperation, the OSCE's primary platform for dialogue to increase military security and stability in Europe, even when it only includes General Statements.

Despite the significant challenges we currently face, the OSCE continues to demonstrate its relevance by providing vital support to Ukraine, contributing to holding Russia accountable, and responding to other imminent security challenges facing our region and the world.

Madame Chair,

The Russian Federation can and must immediately end its war of aggression and respect its international obligations, and Belarus must stop aiding and assisting Russia's aggression. Their imaginary feud with the West cannot be used as a pretext to violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, attempting to erase both the history and the future of its people.

Iceland stands in firm solidarity with other participating States who are targets of destabilizing activities, hybrid attacks, and disinformation campaigns perpetuated by the Russian Federation. These actions are yet another display of Russia's disregard for international law and OSCE commitments.

Iceland's support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders will remain steadfast and resolute. Iceland also continues to strongly support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and Georgia. We furthermore encourage the government of Georgia to return to the path of reform in an effort to join a democratic Europe that is supportive of its rights and freedoms.

In these challenging times, it is essential for those of us who believe in democracy, freedom, the rule of law, and the value of multilateral cooperation, to remain vigilant. We need to continue to support and safeguard the system that our nations have steadfastly built over the decades and not let any participating State succeed in unraveling it.

I thank you, Madame Chair.