



**Statement of Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1324th Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 15 July 2021.**

**Thank you Madam Chair.**

While my delegation aligns itself with the EU statement, I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Your Excellency Foreign Minister Mr. Zbigniew Rau, I thank you for sharing the vision of the incoming Chair of 2022.

Iceland wishes to stress that gender issues are an integral part of all the three dimensions of OSCE and need to be recognized and emphasized as such.

First, Iceland has emphasized the meaningful participation of women in peace processes and urges all states to adopt a National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, on Women, Peace and Security.

Second, gender equality has proven to bring several social and economic benefits to societies. More gender-equal societies tend to be happier, healthier, more trusting and have more prosperous economies.

Third, Iceland is dedicated to the advancement of women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights and their empowerment. Women's rights are human rights.

We therefore urge the incoming Chair to prioritize gender issues and thus uphold the values that will benefit all our societies and contribute to a more stable and peaceful future.

**Thank you Madam Chair.**