



Statement by Ambassador Kristín A. Árnadóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland, at the 1379th Permanent Council Meeting, Vienna, 23 June 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Iceland aligns with the statement of the European Union but allow me to make a brief remark in my national capacity.

I would like to express our immense gratitude to you, Ambassador Villadsen, for your thorough report and you and your able team for your invaluable work. We have not least noticed and appreciated the efforts to promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the mainstreaming of gender aspects in the Co-Ordinator's hugely important projects in Ukraine.

Let me stress that we are grateful for the good work done in all OSCE field missions, each with a tailored and significant mandate, to safeguard our joint interests.

We are extremely concerned and disappointed that consensus was not reached on the extension of the mandate of the PCU, and it is regrettable, to say the least, seeing OSCE field presence in Ukraine further scaled down during a time where its work is more important than ever. Even if only to clean up after the destruction and the atrocities of Russia.

To conclude, I thank you and your team again Ambassador Villadsen and wish you every success in your future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.