



Predsednica Republike Slovenije

NATAŠA PIRC MUSAR

**Introductory remarks by the President of the Republic of Slovenia
Dr Nataša Pirc Musar
at the
Round table on the topic of
"Supporting Ukraine – solidarity and accountability"**

Reykjavík, 16 May 2023

Check against delivery.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

I will offer some short remarks complementing the presentation by the Prime Minister Varadkar, focusing primarily on the importance of international cooperation in fighting impunity.

Let me start by some facts and basic principles:

- 1. Within the Council of Europe, we continue to fully support the **sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine** and express solidarity with its people.*
- 2. We strongly **condemn Russian aggression** with the killing of innocent civilians and the destruction of civilian and critical infrastructure.*
- 3. We support all efforts that would lead to a lasting and just peace in Ukraine. **The aggressor is Russia and the victim is Ukraine.***
- 4. We welcome the recently issued **warrant of the International Criminal Court** for the arrest of Russian President Putin for the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children. There should be absolutely **no impunity for sexual violence and unlawful transfers of millions of children.***
- 5. Our support for **multilateralism based on international law** is more important than ever. The Council of Europe developed and Acton Plan "Resilience, Recover and Reconstruction" from this year until 2026.*

6. *Both the ICJ and the European Court on Human Rights are dealing with the question of application of two highly relevant Conventions – ie the Convention against Genocide and the European Convention on Human Rights, that are integral part of the basic legal framework for human rights.*
7. *The international community must be careful to not fall under the Ukraine fatigue.*
8. *The Council of Europe can play an important role **in ensuring accountability** for the core international crimes. Cooperation with other international stakeholders is crucial.*
9. *The International **Center for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine** has been established in the Hague. With the support of EUROJUST and with participation of the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor, a **Joint Investigation Team on alleged core international crimes committed in Ukraine is up and running.***
10. *At our current Summit we are establishing the Council of Europe's **Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Register of Damage caused by the Russia's aggression. An effective connection will need to be made between the Register and the future overall mechanism for the prosecution of the crime of aggression.***

May I also recall that in order to help steer our roundtable we have been given some guiding questions. These focus on ensuring accountability and justice, on gathering evidence, on collaboration of the Council of Europe with other European and international organizations and on ensuring safe return of Ukrainian children to their homes.