



Address
by
the President of Iceland,
Guðni Th. Jóhannesson,
at
the Second Crimea Platform Summit

23 August 2022

President Zelensky,
Excellencies,
dear friends of Ukraine.

Iceland stands with Ukraine. We have done so and will continue to do so. The government of Iceland supports United Nations agencies and other international organisations that provide humanitarian assistance on the ground. Furthermore, we have warmly welcomed refugees from Ukraine here in Iceland.

We Icelanders are blessed in many ways. We live on an island in the middle of the Atlantic. We have no army. We have no immediate neighbours threatening us with violence and war. Still, history tells us that our safety and security depend on the safety and security of others. As long as the Russian invasion of Ukraine rages, freedom is at risk in the whole of Europe.

President Zelensky: I admire your courage and guidance during these terrible times. You stepped up as a strong leader when your nation needed a strong leader.

At the same time, allow me to say that the world does not need so-called strongmen who use military strength to oppress others, leaders who sow fear and mistrust at home and abroad. There is nothing strong about that. Let us rather work for a strong family of states and a strong international order. Let us work for strong democracies, with strong respect for freedom and diversity. Let us work for the strong rule of law, not the law of the strong, for that is no law, only force and ferocity.

Dear listeners: Iceland stays united with Ukraine and its people. Thank you.