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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT BY ICELAND
ON THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN
NORWAY ON 22 JULY 2011

As delivered to the OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna
28 July 2011, by Ingibjörg Davíðsdóttir, Deputy Head of Mission

Mr. Chair

The Government of Iceland condemns in the strongest terms the brutal terror attacks that occurred in Norway on 22 July, causing numerous deaths and injuries. Iceland strongly condemns extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification for such heinous acts. The Government and the people of Norway have shown remarkable strength, determination and bravery at these trying times.

Democracy has been attacked. "We will, as Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg stated, meet terror with more democracy." We will combat hatred and terror such as this, through more openness and more democracy. We will not be silenced.

On behalf of the Government of Iceland and all Icelanders, I express our deepest sympathy, solidarity and sincere condolences to the victims of these heinous acts and to their families and friends, and to the people and Government of Norway.

Last Monday, all the Nordic nations, Iceland, Finland, Denmark and Sweden, joined Norway in a minute of silence, in honouring the memory of the victims. This is such a tragic event that we have no words to express the deep sorrow that are in the hearts of all Icelanders. The bonds and longstanding friendship between our two nations is strong – and we feel like Norwegians today.

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those deceased and with the Norwegian nation as a whole, our close friends and allies, at this difficult time and the most trying one for a long time in Norwegian history.

Thank you Mr. Chair