Original: English

OPENING STATEMENT BY ICELAND

The delegation of Iceland is engaged in the 23rd Special Meeting of the ICCAT Commission, 14-21 November 2022 and expects that the meeting will be both productive and constructive between all Contracting Parties, for the conservation and management of ICCAT species.

However, the delegation of Iceland must underline Iceland's full solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Iceland condemns in the strongest terms the invasion of the Russian Federation, which is in flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders.

Iceland would like to make clear that the unacceptable actions of the Russian Federation impact our interaction in all international fora.