



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 17, 2024

As the just concluded 2024 OSCE Asian Conference underscored, European and Indo-Pacific security are inseparable. The principles of the Helsinki Final Act – including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states, refraining from the threat or use of force, and fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law – ring true beyond the OSCE region. When they are flouted in the OSCE region, that can have repercussions well beyond it.

As NATO allies noted in the Washington Summit Declaration, the PRC has become a decisive enabler of Russia's war against Ukraine. PRC support for Russia demonstrates the links between European and Indo-Pacific security. Another growing concern is the deepening cooperation between Russia and the DPRK.

Due in part to the international community's sanctions and export controls, a desperate Kremlin has searched around the world for equipment to sustain its war against Ukraine. Our information indicates the DPRK has so far supplied Russia with over 18,000 containers of military equipment and munitions, including millions of artillery rounds, as well as ballistic missile launchers and dozens of ballistic missiles.

Russia has used DPRK-provided military equipment to attack Ukraine's cities, kill Ukrainian civilians, and further its unlawful war.

Let me say why this matters.

The ramifications of Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un's mutual assistance are far-reaching, undermining security both within and outside the OSCE region.

The more Russia relies on such support, the more the DPRK extracts in return. The United States assesses that Pyongyang seeks military assistance from Russia including fighter aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, armored vehicles, ballistic missile production equipment or materials, and other advanced technologies. All of this to a leader who routinely threatens to obliterate the Republic of Korea and Japan. We have already observed Russian ships offloading containers in the DPRK, which might constitute initial deliveries. Meanwhile, Russia has used its position on the UN Security Council to undermine the Council's ability to effectively monitor and enforce sanctions against the DPRK.

This deepening cooperation harms Ukraine, exacerbates threats to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, and undermines the global non-proliferation regime.

In response, the United States is taking a range of actions in lockstep with our allies and partners.

First, we have sanctioned individuals and entities facilitating arms deals between Russia and the DPRK. We will enforce existing sanctions while imposing new ones as necessary.

Second, we are actively raising our concerns at the United Nations, emphasizing that these arms transfers violate multiple UN Security Council resolutions. Resolutions Russia itself voted for. Yesterday, on October 16, the United States, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom jointly announced a new multilateral monitoring mechanism to assist the full implementation of UN sanctions on North Korea that does not rely on Russia's approval.

Third, we will continue to expose these arms deals to ensure that the DPRK's support for Russia's war machine is not secret.

The world needs to know about the death and destruction Russia is causing in Ukraine with material support from the DPRK and to understand the threats to global security posed by growing cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang.

###