



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Co-operation:
General Statements –
Russia’s War of Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Arms Control Counselor Daniel Wartko
October 2, 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Before turning to Ukraine, I’d like to say a few words about the attack against Israel yesterday.

Last night the World witnessed a massive attack by Iran against Israel: approximately 200 ballistic missiles, sent in waves, in an attempt to overwhelm Israel’s defenses.

Israel, with the active support of the United States and other partners, effectively defeated this attack. Our joint defenses have been effective in this operation and our successful coordination saved many innocent lives. We are now working with the Israeli authorities to assess the impact and consequences of Iran’s attack.

We have demonstrated once again our steadfast commitment to Israel’s defense.

Mr. Chair,

Turning to Ukraine: Last week, the United States hosted a visit by Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. We stand united in our commitment to halt Russia’s war of aggression and to ensure a just and lasting peace.

If there is any doubt as to what we mean when we say, “a just and lasting peace,” Secretary Blinken spelled it out clearly at the United Nations on Tuesday.

“A just and lasting peace must affirm the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence.

A just and lasting peace must preserve Ukraine’s right to choose its own path, its own allies, and its own future.

A just and lasting peace requires Ukraine’s full participation – and assent.

A just and lasting peace must support Ukraine’s reconstruction and recovery, with Russia paying for the damage it has caused.

And, a just and lasting peace must address both accountability and reconciliation.”

President Zelenskyy’s visit also served to underline that Ukraine is committed to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence despite the horrors unleashed upon it by Russia. Ukraine’s commitment stands in stark contrast with our Russian colleagues who have made it “absolutely clear” in the last several sessions of the FSC that Putin presently has no interest in upholding international law or the UN charter. Putin recently declared that Russia would return to the negotiating table only when Ukraine withdraws its troops from Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia. In other words, when Ukraine withdraws from its own sovereign territory.

Mr. Chair,

Russia must face a global diplomatic effort to choose peace instead of war. It must see that not only has its war brought untold and unnecessary suffering on Ukraine, but that its war is hurting Russia itself as well as the rest of the world.

But Russia tells us that the rest of the world outside this Forum – a supposed vast silent majority of the world – supports Russia’s efforts to reshape the global order in its image. Is this true?

Well, let’s look at the UN vote last week on Russia’s proposed amendments to weaken the “Pact for the Future.” Well, let’s look at the UN vote last week on Russia’s proposed amendments to weaken the “Pact for the Future.” This was

Russia's clumsy attempt to put this "silent majority" on record and promote its world view at the UN. Russia claims to have the "Global South" on its side, but its proposal angered officials from the African Union and Mexico, highlighting Moscow's meager support. The majority indeed spoke, as it loudly and overwhelmingly rejected Russia's proposal in a 143 to 7 vote. The majority indeed spoke, as it loudly and overwhelmingly rejected Russia's proposal in a 143 to 7 vote. Who were the six besides Russia? Belarus, Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela.

Russia seems to be living in its own echo chamber, but reality will eventually assert itself as loudly as a freight train in a tunnel. Our combined voices speaking the truth will rise above the din of Russia's lies. Only then will it become apparent to the Kremlin and Russia's people that peace benefits Russia – and the rest of the world -- more than war.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.