



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
1093rd Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation:
General Statements –
Russia’s War of Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Arms Control Counselor Daniel Wartko
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Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Without a common frame of reference, European Security could mean something different for each participating State in this forum. This is why our predecessors identified shared principles that they codified in the Helsinki Final Act almost 50 years ago.

Because of these shared principles, our nations recognized the importance of discussing our differences and created this body with the goal of enhancing security across the Euro-Atlantic region through dialogue and our shared commitments. It is why the Ministers of the OSCE participating States, including Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, mandated us to meet weekly with at least a minimum agenda of General Statements and Any Other Business.

Mr. Chair, Distinguished colleagues,

Russia has repeatedly demonstrated its disregard for the shared principles we all decided to uphold. Russia continues to wage its illegal war against Ukraine, which has now exceeded 1000 days and appears to have moved to a troubling new phase.

But before addressing the recent evolution in this war, I would like to reflect on Russia’s regular obstruction of dialogue in this forum. Russia’s obstruction is directed at those participating States that foil Russia’s campaign of disinformation or acknowledge Russia’s brutality and culpability in the war, week in and week out. Russia seems to think that consensus on dialogue means that it can dictate all discussions that take place in this forum. It seems to think that this forum is territory to be seized in its campaign of disinformation and propaganda.

Russia attempts to use this platform to perpetuate its disinformation. It attempts to obfuscate and sow doubt on the atrocities committed in Bucha. It attempts to minimize Ukraine's steadfast self-defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity by using baseless accusations, and to distract from the unprovoked and illegal nature of its invasion. Russia's use of disinformation is pervasive, and we will continue to challenge Russia's false narratives and ensure that the truth is protected.

Mr. Chair,

Turning back to the recent troubling developments in Russia's illegal war, if the soldiers that we assess the DPRK has moved to Russia enter into combat alongside the Russian military, then Russia's war will have moved to a new phase. It would mark a profoundly reckless and destabilizing development and would demonstrate an unprecedented level of direct military cooperation between Russia and the DPRK with security implications in Europe as well as the Indo-Pacific.

This is the latest instance of Russia drawing assistance from an authoritarian government to sustain its war against Ukraine. Iran and the DPRK provide military assistance, Belarus has provided a platform for attacks on Ukraine, and the PRC supports Russia's military industrial base. These partnerships, exacerbate threats to peace and security in Ukraine and throughout the Euro-Atlantic region, and in some instances their cooperation violates UN sanctions that the PRC and Russia both supported.

Mr. Chair,

The conduct of those States aiding or supporting Russia's unjust invasion is fundamentally different from that of the broad coalition of States providing defensive aid to Ukraine in its just war of self-defense. Russia is the aggressor that started this illegal war, and Ukraine, as the victim of Russia's aggression, is defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity with the full backing of international law.

Russia has said that the defensive aid is quote "prolonging the conflict." Let me be clear, a sovereign State standing in self-defense, rather than succumbing to

aggression, should never be confused as “prolonging a conflict.” The aid which is provided to Ukraine for its defense underwrites the foundational principles of this organization that underpin our mutual security.

It is clear that Russia’s war of aggression violates those principles and commitments of the OSCE and violates the UN Charter. Therefore, aiding Russia’s war of aggression directly undermines these institutions, our values, and our collective security.

Thank you, Mr. Chair