



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

### **92<sup>nd</sup> Joint FSC-PC Meeting** (06 November 2024)

Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue: “The Russian Federation’s military cooperation with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the possible implications for its ongoing aggression against Ukraine”

Chairs,

First of all, let me express our gratitude to the Maltese OSCE Chairpersonship and the Danish FSC Chairpersonship for convening this Joint FSC-PC meeting on North Korea’s involvement in Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.

The current events represent an unprecedented level of escalation since the very start of the full-scale invasion in February 2022. We strongly believe that the OSCE, as the world’s largest regional security organisation, cannot remain on the sidelines.

According to available information, up to 12,000 North Korean military personnel are undergoing training at five training grounds in the Eastern Military District of the Russian Federation. This contingent includes at least 500 DPRK army officers, along with three generals from the General Staff.

The first DPRK military units have already arrived in the combat zone. In particular, on 23 October 2024, they were detected in the Kursk region of the Russian Federation. Three thousand North Korean troops were deployed at Russian training grounds in close proximity to the area of hostilities.

Available information indicates Russian plans to form at least five units using DPRK military personnel, each consisting of 2,000-3,000 troops. Such a unit will be equivalent to a motorised rifle regiment. Notably, in order to conceal North Korean military presence in Russia, the North Korean troops are expected to be integrated into Russian units staffed by ethnic minorities from the Asian part of Russia.

Distinguished colleagues,

The direct deployment of North Korean troops on the Russian Federation clearly indicates that the strategic relationship between these two pariah states has progressed beyond simple arms transfers and has reached an unprecedented level of cooperation. The Russian Federation has once again demonstrated its complete disregard for the rules-based international order and the provisions of international law, including those for which it voted.

First and foremost, let us be clear, any state that deploys its troops together with the Russian forces violates the prohibition on the use of force enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, just as the Russian Federation itself does.

Moreover, Russia's military cooperation with the DPRK contravenes numerous UN Security Council resolutions that prohibit both the procurement of DPRK arms and the provision of military training.

Available information indicates that Russian forces have trained North Korean soldiers in infantry tactics, artillery operations, and UAV operations. Such actions are in violation of UN Security Council resolutions 1718, 1874, and 2270.

In a clear violation of these resolutions, the Russian Federation is providing the DPRK with all necessary means to assist Pyongyang in advancing its armament programme and thus strengthening its military capabilities. And there should be no doubt that the DPRK will take advantage of this opportunity.

In fact, there are already examples of such developments. Notably, on 31 October 2024, the DPRK conducted another launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. This was the longest flight ever recorded for North Korean missiles, demonstrating further technological advancement in the DPRK's missile programme. In addition, on 5 November, the DPRK again launched several short-range ballistic missiles.

Of particular concern is the fact that the launch took place against the backdrop of unprecedented development in the so-called strategic relationship between the DPRK and the Russian Federation.

Moreover, the intensification of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the DPRK also raises the question of how far this so-called partnership is consistent with Moscow's non-proliferation commitments and obligations, including the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation.

We find it particularly telling that when the Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov was asked whether the Russian Federation was aiding North Korea in developing missile and other military technology, he simply evaded the answer.

To understand the gravity of the situation and the risks, one only needs to look at the situation in the Middle East, where Iran, another Kremlin's fellow regime, has already seized the opportunity provided by the military-technical cooperation with Russia. Encouraged and supported by Moscow, Tehran has already begun to act to undermine the security situation in the region.

Chairs,

The implications of the long-term alliance between Russia and North Korea extend far beyond the battlefield in Ukraine and could have long-term consequences for stability across the globe, from the OSCE area to the Indo-Pacific region. Such cooperation between authoritarian states exacerbates international instability and emboldens other pariah states to act aggressively, posing a direct threat to global security and undermining the international security architecture.

In this context, it is of utmost importance for all of us to develop a common understanding of these issues and to create a realistic strategy to counter the threats emanating from the Russian Federation and its allies.

The actions by the Russian Federation must not remain unpunished. And by this we mean more than just political condemnation. The Kremlin has repeatedly demonstrated that the only language the Russian Federation understands is the language of power.

In this regard, we expect a firm and concrete response from the international community, including a significant strengthening of Ukraine's military capabilities, the lifting of restrictions on the use of supplied weapons, and crippling sanctions aimed at the military assets of Moscow and Pyongyang.

North Korea's involvement in Russia's war against Ukraine must be met with tangible pressure to uphold the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated in his recent address: "Everyone in the world who truly wants to prevent this Russian war against Ukraine from expanding and spreading beyond Europe to other regions of the world – everyone must do more than just watch. We must act." Indeed, it is clear that engagement or "appeasement" of Russia and other autocracies is not working. It has not prevented the war or its escalation.

Who could have predicted, even just a couple of years ago, that DPRK soldiers would be deployed in Europe to participate in hostilities? Today, this is the new reality. And Ukraine is now confronting not only the Russian aggressor, but also its North Korean ally. Against this backdrop, we call on the international community to seriously consider this new reality and take concrete actions.

The ambitions of this new military alliance of autocracies to overturn the rules-based international order are both a rehearsal for and a potential test of the world's response. Should these actions not be met with a decisive response, they will be emboldened to further extend their influence, which could ultimately lead to a war of a global scale.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.