



United States Mission to the OSCE

U.S. Statement for the 92nd FSC-PC:

The Russian Federation's military cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the possible implications for its ongoing aggression against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
November 6, 2024

Thank you, Chairs.

And thank you for convening this meeting to discuss another grave threat to security in the OSCE region: the DPRK's involvement in Russia's war against Ukraine.

We now assess that there are some 10,000 DPRK soldiers in Russia who have been deployed to the Kursk region. Russia has been training DPRK soldiers in artillery, drones, and basic infantry operations, including trench clearing, indicating that it intends to use these forces in frontline operations. Russia has outfitted DPRK troops with Russian uniforms and equipment.

At the October 31st meeting of the Permanent Council, the Russian Federation dismissed criticism of Russia's desperate turn towards DPRK soldiers as hypocrisy, claiming that "thousands of mercenary dregs" from around the world were already fighting for Ukraine.

Russia knows the difference between mercenaries and regular troops of another country's armed forces.

Vladimir Putin himself showed the world that he understands the distinction. On February 24 this year, Putin alleged there were mercenaries already fighting for Ukraine. He then warned that should another country have "the desire to send **regular troops**, that would **certainly** bring humanity to the brink of a very serious, global conflict." And indeed, it has. The Russian Federation has escalated this conflict by bringing regular DPRK troops into the war.

So, after threatening every participating State in the OSCE against escalation, Russia has now itself escalated and broadened the conflict. Having fed its own soldiers into this conflict of senseless aggression, the Kremlin now intends to waste other lives it values even less.

Just a few years ago, Russia recognized the threat posed by the DPRK and supported multiple UN Security Council resolutions prohibiting arms transfers and other forms of military assistance to or from the DPRK. Each of these Security Council resolutions imposed restrictions on military cooperation with the DPRK because the DPRK's actions, including its unlawful nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programs, threatened global peace and security.

The DPRK's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile on November 1 shows that this threat persists. But now, Moscow is receiving DPRK military assistance to support its war of aggression, which is a breach of numerous UN Security Council resolutions, and signed a mutual defense agreement with Pyongyang. We are deeply concerned about the potential for any transfer of nuclear or ballistic missile-related technology from Russia to the DPRK in violation of the relevant UNSCRs. Russia must comply with its obligations under

Security Council resolutions and reevaluate its cooperation with the DPRK to align with international obligations.

Chairs, Russia's actions continue to undermine the security of OSCE participating States and Partners for Security Cooperation. The Russian Federation needs to immediately halt its cooperation with the DPRK and cease accepting DPRK troops.

Thank you, Chairs.