



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

As delivered by Arms Control Counselor Daniel Wartko
February 14, 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

As we approach the end of the second year of Russia’s “three-day war,” it is a useful time to step back and to assess the larger picture of international security in Europe and Eurasia.

We have all witnessed Russia’s blatant violations of international law, contraventions of international commitments, defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, and contempt for civil and diplomatic engagement. We have seen this on the battlefield, and we have witnessed Russia’s bullying in this very room.

We cannot afford to become numb to this behavior, and thus normalize it. The United States, along with many of the other delegations here, will continue to remind the FSC and its participants of these violent and blatant transgressions:

- Russia is invading a peaceful neighbor because it does not accept its very right to exist as a sovereign nation.
- Russia’s attacks are killing Ukraine’s civilians, and members of its armed forces.
- Russia is forcibly transferring and deporting Ukrainian children away from their families.
- Russia is destroying Ukraine’s farms, energy infrastructure, grain shipment facilities, and civilian homes.

We can never accept this as normal.

Russia’s disregard for international norms goes even beyond the borders of the OSCE. As we already heard this morning, Russia is acquiring and using ballistic

missiles from the DPRK in blatant and willful violation of UN Security Council resolutions, specifically the UN arms embargo on the DPRK. This is unacceptable.

Russia's unlawful procurement of arms from North Korea is of vital concern to all of us interested in maintaining peace and stability in Europe and on the Korean Peninsula.

Those of us working to uphold the global non-proliferation regime, which, to be clear, includes practically each participating State represented in this room – will continue to support the people of Ukraine as they defend their freedom and independence against Russia's brutal invasion.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.