

【Check against delivery】

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN
On “North Korea’s involvement in Russia’s war against
Ukraine”
FSC/PC Joint Meeting, OSCE,
6 November, 2024**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

We are grateful for the initiative taken by Ukraine to discuss the issues on military cooperation between Russia and North Korea in the war of aggression against Ukraine.

Madam Chair,

Let me begin with our strong condemnation of yet another launch of an ICBM-class missile, following the most recent ballistic missiles launch this week, by North Korea in violation of multiple Security Council resolutions. The latest launch of ICBM is estimated to have landed in the waters near Japan, around only 200 km off the island of Hokkaido.

This time, the missile reached a height of over 7000 km and flew about 86 minutes, marking the highest and longest-length trajectory of any object that was launched by North Korea to date. Its maximal range, in our assessment, could cover 15,000 km, or three eighths of the circumference of the globe. For reference, the distance between Vienna and Tokyo is approximately 9,150 km. At the Hofburg, we are all friends, being within the range of this missile. How can we simply sit on the fence and look at what has happened? The threat of North Korea has reached us all thus far.

Madam Chair,

The story of cooperation between Russia and North Korea did not begin just recently. Taking one example, it was about half a year ago that 1718 Committee Panel of Experts was forced to terminate its mandate due to the regrettable veto by Russia, which was clearly intended to give breathing space for North Korea.

Just a couple months after this veto, Russia and North Korea signed the “Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,” which highlights the increasing cooperation between Russia and North Korea.

The UN Security Council met and discussed military cooperation between Russia and North Korea on 30th October, following the first meeting of this kind in June this year. In light of clear violation of relevant Security Council Resolutions, we repeatedly condemned in the strongest possible terms North Korea’s export and Russia’s procurement of ballistic missiles from North Korea, as well as Russia’s use of these missiles against Ukraine. Yet military cooperation between the two has only accelerated.

In September, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov publicly stated that “applying the term ‘denuclearisation’ to DPRK no longer makes any sense. This is off the table.” He publicly denied the goals established by multiple Security Council resolutions that Russia itself has supported. This represents an endorsement of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile development and undermines the international non-proliferation regime, which is absolutely unacceptable.

Madam Chair,

Japan has confirmed information sufficient for us to believe that North Korea’s soldiers have been deployed to Russia and have

engaged in military training. This, again, constitutes a blatant violation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

We are closely monitoring this development with serious concern, including the imminent risk that these troops may take direct part in Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which would constitute a grave violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

Madam Chair,

President Putin did not rule out the possibility of advancing cooperation with North Korea in military technology during his visit to Pyongyang last June.

This is totally unacceptable behavior for a responsible permanent member of the Security Council to engage in. We continue to closely monitor what Russia provides to North Korea in return.

North Korea becoming an accomplice to Russia's unprovoked aggression will worsen the situation in Ukraine and we cannot just overlook the situation where relevant international laws and Security Council resolutions have been repeatedly and flagrantly violated by them. Let me stress the importance of raising the voices of international community against such behaviors, and urging all UN member states, including a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to abide by their obligations under all relevant Security Council resolutions. .

I thank you, Madam Chair.