

Obama Urges Putin to Support Ukrainian Peace Plan

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U.S. President Barack Obama said Russia face additional costs if it didn't take concrete actions to de-escalate the situation in Ukraine.

U.S. President Barack Obama has urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to support peace in Ukraine and said Moscow will face further sanctions if it does not take steps to reduce tensions in the country, the White House said.

"The president spoke to President Putin and once again urged him to support peace instead of allowing the provision of arms and material across the border and continuing support for militants and separatists who are further destabilizing the situation in Ukraine," White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters on Monday.

"Russia will face additional costs if we do not see concrete actions to de-escalate the situation," he said of Obama's message to Putin.

The two leaders spoke in a call earlier Monday.

Putin and Obama discussed proposals for peace in Ukraine, after Ukraine's leader announced a ceasefire in military operations in the east, the Kremlin said in a statement.

"They discussed ... the implementation of the peace plan proposed by [Ukrainian] President Petro Poroshenko," the Kremlin said. "Putin stressed that priority must be given to halting military operations and to the start of direct negotiations between the opposing sides."

The White House said in a follow-up statement that Obama welcomed Poroshenko's peace plan and pressed Putin for Russia to work toward implementing it.

"The president called upon President Putin to press the separatists to recognize and abide by the ceasefire and to halt the flow of weapons and materiel across its border into Ukraine," the statement said.

"The president emphasized that words must be accompanied by actions and that the U.S. remains prepared to impose additional sanctions should circumstances warrant, in coordination with our allies and partners."

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden told Poroshenko in a phone call on Monday that the U.S. would continue to strongly support his peace plan, including the disarmament of all illegally armed groups, release of hostages, and de-occupation of government buildings, the White House said in a statement.

Poroshenko underscored to Biden the importance of Ukraine having full control over its border to prevent the inflow of armed militants and weapons, which continue to cross into Ukraine from Russia, the White House said.

Obama and Putin also discussed the removal of chemical weapons from Syria and efforts to ensure Iran's nuclear program was peaceful.

See also:

[Poroshenko Sets Out Cease-Fire Plan for East Ukraine](#)

[Separatists Agree to Observe Cease-Fire in Ukraine, Rebel Leader Says](#)

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