

China's Xi Jinping announces Russia visit for talks with Vladimir Putin

Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to visit Russia next week from Monday to Wednesday, in an apparent show of support for Russian President Vladimir Putin, amid sharpening East-West tensions over the war in Ukraine.

Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine is expected to dominate Putin and Xi's discussions. China has refused to condemn Moscow's aggression and sought to project itself as neutral in the conflict even while Beijing declared last year that it had a "no-limits" friendship with Russia.

The meeting between the leaders was announced by both countries on Friday.

China has said the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, while condemning Western sanctions and accusing NATO and the United States of provoking Russia into military action.

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