

Putin says Russia won't rejoin Ukraine grain deal; offers shipments to six African nations

July 27 (UPI) — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Moscow would not rejoin the Black Sea Grain Initiative, instead offering to directly deliver food to Russian allies in Africa.

Putin reiterated during remarks at the Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum that his government would “refuse to extend” the grain deal that allowed Ukrainian and Russian agricultural products to be exported via the Black Sea after exiting the pact earlier this month.

He said Russia would implement “a more just system of resource distribution” as he pledged to offer free grain to six African nations.

“In the coming three or four months we would be ready to provide to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, the Central African Republic and Eritrea up to 500,000 tons of grain each. We will ensure free shipping of these cargo,” he said.

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