

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Reply to Azerbaijan on the Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 8, 2015

I listened carefully to the statements by our distinguished Armenian colleague in the previous item, and then our distinguished Azerbaijani colleague in this item, and I just wanted to respond to a couple of the direct questions that were raised by the distinguished Azerbaijani ambassador.

There were several questions, but I think they centered on a particular point, which was the question of whether the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group are satisfied with the status quo. And the distinguished Azerbaijani ambassador expressed his delegation's assessment that 20 years is too long to not resolve a conflict.

I want to assure the distinguished Ambassador of Azerbaijan that I listened closely and hear the frustration. I agree that twenty years is too long, and that all conflicts are urgent and must be solved. The United States shares this sense of urgency – and this urgency connects to our deep concern about the recent violence, as well as our ongoing commitment to work with the sides to achieve a lasting and peaceful settlement of the conflict. In that vein, we continue to encourage – as a Co-Chair, we encourage Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue preparations with the Co-Chairs on the next presidential summit, to be held before the end of this year.

Thank you, Madam Chair.