



ԵԱՀԿ-ՈՒՄ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

**Statement**

**By Ambassador Armen Papikyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia**

**In response to the statement delivered by the Delegation of the United States**

**on behalf of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries,**

**as delivered at the 1284<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

**October 09, 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the distinguished delegation of the United States for presenting the statement issued on October 5, 2020 by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian, and Secretary of State of the United States of America Michael R. Pompeo, representing the Co-Chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group. We also thank the distinguished delegations of the Russian Federation, France, the European Union, Switzerland, the United Kingdom also on behalf of Canada, for their calls to cease the hostilities and resolve the conflict through peaceful means.

The Republic of Armenia values the statement of the Foreign Ministers of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, in which the unprecedented massive targeting of the civilian population and infrastructure in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone has been condemned in the strongest terms as an unacceptable threat to the stability of the region.

Armenia reiterates the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities, which the Foreign Ministry of Armenia has already underlined in its statement issued on October 2, 2020.

We once again stress that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement and the peace process, and any attempt to resolve the conflict by military means will be resolutely averted.

We thank all those participating States who since the outbreak of armed aggression expressed their support to the cessation of hostilities, called to restore the 1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements and resume the negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs without any preconditions.

It is symptomatic, that despite this unanimous call of the international community, Azerbaijan and Turkey, in total disrespect of those calls, continue the aggression against Artsakh. Furthermore, the recent actions of Turkey and its unwavering support to Azerbaijan, both politically and militarily, to continue its aggression against the Republic of Artsakh and its people as well as recruitment and deployment of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists from Syria and Libya to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone comes to prove that Turkey is the main destabilising force in the region and consequently cannot and should not be considered as a balanced and trustworthy member of the Minsk Group. Therefore, Turkey, whose leadership declared it to be party to the conflict, is not considered by Armenia as a member of the Minsk Group. And we also call on all OSCE participating States to put pressure on Turkey to withdraw its military personnel from the South Caucasus, together with its affiliated terrorist groups.

Mr Chairman, esteemed colleagues,

Constant attacks and blackmailing tactics with regards the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries used by Azerbaijani representatives at various levels reveal that the purpose of Azerbaijan was not and is not to engage constructively in the peace process, but rather to seek military solution to the conflict, and the fact that out of 57 participating States of the OSCE and the international community in general only Turkey and Azerbaijan are attacking the internationally mandated mechanism of the OSCE Minsk Group Ch-Chairmanship attests to that. Turkey's direct involvement in the conflict along with Turkish backed jihadists and foreign terrorist fighters should be a warning signal and wake up call for those who, be it due to internal disturbances or other conflict related matters, short-sightedly support the Azerbaijani aggression against Artsakh.

Artsakh cannot be part of Azerbaijan. This aggression once again proves the impossibility of Artsakh being within Azerbaijan in any way or manner. Shelling civilian settlements and critical infrastructure of Artsakh, targeting cultural and spiritual centres - these actions of Aliyev's regime speaks about its intentions to kill and destroy. I will have an opportunity to speak about it in more detail under the next current issue.

Thank you.