

PC.DEL/1341/18  
8 November 2018

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1200th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 November 2018

**In response to the statements by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group,  
the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the  
Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference and the  
Head of the High-Level Planning Group**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, the distinguished Ambassadors Igor Valentinovich Popov, Stéphane Visconti and Andrew Schofer, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, the distinguished Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, and the Head of the High-Level Planning Group, Colonel Vladimir Minarik, for their detailed information on the development of the negotiating process and their assessment of the current situation in the region.

We firmly believe that the efforts by the troika of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs as collective mediators in the elaboration by the parties of a viable settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem deserve great appreciation and unqualified support.

In the first place, we should like to point to their success in minimizing the impact on the negotiations of the domestic political processes in Armenia and Azerbaijan in connection with the elections and the formation of public administration bodies based on their outcome. Intensive discussions have been resumed after a short pause, as agreed by the presidents of the two countries at their meeting in Geneva on 16 October 2017. Thanks to the active mediating efforts by the troika, a series of meetings of the foreign ministers have taken place, as well as negotiations at the highest level, including a meeting on the margins of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Dushanbe on 28 September initiated by the President of Russia Vladimir Putin in co-operation with the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The continuing relative stability at the line of contact and the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the reduction in the number of ceasefire violations are encouraging. We urge the sides to consolidate these positive trends through additional measures to reduce tension at the line of contact in accordance with the agreements reached following the meetings of the

leaders of the two countries in 2016. Other solutions acceptable to the parties are also possible.

We believe in principle that the maintenance and further consolidation of the ceasefire regime are in themselves the most important prerequisites for the success of the mediating mission of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. This helps to create an atmosphere of trust between the parties and thus to foster progress towards a compromise on the essential aspects of the settlement.

We are once again pleased to note the effective work of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk. The distinguished ambassador and his small but highly professional team make a huge contribution to creating the necessary conditions for progressing towards a political settlement of the conflict. We trust that the situation “on the ground” will no longer make it necessary for the office to carry out emergency humanitarian operations and that it will be conducive to a dynamic development of the situation in the region according to plan.

We appreciate the contribution by the High-Level Planning Group to keeping up the peacekeeping plans in the region within the mandate approved at the 1994 CSCE Summit in Budapest.

In conclusion, we should like once again to confirm that the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is one of Russia’s most important foreign policy priorities. We remain disposed to pursue this aim in close co-ordination with the other members of the troika of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries.

Thank you for your attention.