

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1094th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 April 2016

**In connection with the exacerbation of the situation in  
Nagorno-Karabakh**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to thank Mr. James Warlick who spoke on behalf of all the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group, and Mr. Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office, for their assessments of the exacerbation of the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone and the measures required to stabilize the situation in the region.

First and foremost, we should like to stress that we fully support the approaches outlined in the special statement by the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group on 2 April 2016 and the corresponding statement by the Minsk Group today.

In a national capacity, we should like to stress once again that we in Russia are extremely concerned about the renewed open armed conflict in the region, accompanied by the widespread use of heavy weapons and by numerous victims, including civilians.

We call upon the parties to cease fire fully and without delay and to show restraint in the future. We note in that connection the political statements by the parties on their willingness to cease hostilities. The ceasefire regime established should be observed without fail.

We support the strenuous efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group to facilitate the cessation of hostilities and the resumption of a peaceful dialogue on a Nagorno-Karabakh settlement. To that end, we are using our bilateral co-operation channels with Azerbaijan and Armenia. The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, appealed to the parties to end the armed clashes. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sergey Lavrov, and the Minister of Defence, Mr. Sergey Shoygu, held telephone conversations with their colleagues in Baku and Yerevan to prompt a ceasefire by the parties. A meeting between the head of the foreign service and the President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, will take place today.

We are holding extensive consultations with the OSCE Chairmanship and the representatives of the Minsk Group Co-Chair countries on urgent measures to restore stability to the region and ways to stimulate the negotiation process on a peaceful settlement of the conflict supported by the various agreements already drawn up. We note that the partners share a full understanding of the need to support peace and stability in the region as a key prerequisite for continuing to ensure a successful settlement of the conflict.

We should like to reaffirm that as a member of the “troika” of the Minsk Group Co-Chairmen, in close co-operation with the United States of America and France, we shall continue our mediation efforts to support the parties in developing a mutually acceptable consensual basis for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. The accepted format of the “troika” of the Minsk Group Co-Chairmen, whose role is affirmed in OSCE decisions and United Nations Security Council resolutions, is effective and does not need to be modified. In our view, attempts to undermine the role of the Co-Chairmen and the work that they have done are counter-productive; this can only complicate the already complex settlement processes.

We are convinced that there is a need for the “troika’s” assistance in progressing towards a compromise solution, and the effectiveness of these mediation efforts will depend primarily on the parties to the conflict themselves, on whether they have the political will required to reach a settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at the negotiating table. The use of force cannot in any circumstances be an alternative to peaceful dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.