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PC.DEL/1048/23
27 July 2023

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1436th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 July 2023

**On the trilateral meeting of the
Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia**

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia has every interest in the establishment of lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus. We are undertaking vigorous efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions in the region, stabilizing the situation along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, tackling humanitarian problems, unblocking economic and transport links, and developing contacts between civil society actors, experts and parliamentarians.

We are focusing on facilitating the drafting of a peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia that is intended to close the book on a prolonged inter-State conflict and resolve the associated differences in a manner that is mutually acceptable for both parties.

Accordingly, a meeting of the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia was organized in Moscow on 25 May with a view to maintaining the necessary rhythm of the joint work on normalizing relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the basis of a set of trilateral statements adopted at the highest level between 2020 and 2022 (statements dated 9 November 2020, 11 January 2021, 26 November 2021 and 31 October 2022). Building on agreements at the highest level, on 25 July trilateral talks between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, and the foreign policy chiefs of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Jeyhun Bayramov and Ararat Mirzoyan, took place in Moscow for the second time this year. During these talks, there was substantive analysis of the joint efforts to de-escalate the situation regarding Nagorno-Karabakh and to promote the normalization of Azerbaijani-Armenian relations.

The Russian side emphasized the need for the Lachin corridor to be unblocked as soon as possible in accordance with the provisions of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020, for the unhindered movement of people, vehicles and cargo along the corridor in both directions to resume, and for normal life to be restored for the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, in particular as regards the provision of food, medicines and basic necessities and the supply of electricity and gas.

The two foreign policy chiefs confirmed the importance of stepping up work on all tracks of the trilateral agreements, including the unblocking of transport connectivity, delimitation of the border between

Azerbaijan and Armenia, contacts between civil society actors and experts, and the launching of dialogue between parliamentarians. The Russian side reiterated its willingness to help in every possible way in resolving the remaining differences regarding a draft peace treaty, with the most sensitive issue having to do, from the outset, with the rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh. We are convinced that reliable safeguards to protect their rights and ensure their security must become an integral part of a future agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We will continue our proactive efforts to prepare substantive agreements on all areas related to reconciliation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the aim being to give concrete form to these during another trilateral summit.

Thank you for your attention.