

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1013th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF  
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 August 2014

**Regarding the outcome of the meeting of the Presidents of the  
Russian Federation, Armenia and Azerbaijan in Sochi on 10 August 2014**

Mr. Chairperson,

It goes without saying that we agree totally with what has just been said by our French colleague, who on behalf of the three countries co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group drew attention to the joint statement by the Co-Chairs and the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, President of the Swiss Confederation Didier Burkhalter, on the sharp aggravation of the situation in the area of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Further escalation in our opinion is inadmissible. We urge all parties to the conflict to show restraint and refrain from the use of force and to take immediate steps to stabilize the situation.

Elaborating on what was said by our French colleague, we should like to report on the tripartite summit meeting of the Presidents of the Russian Federation, Armenia and Azerbaijan held in Sochi on 10 August 2014 as part of the joint efforts being undertaken by the Co-Chair countries.

The leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, who were in Sochi on working visits, each held separate talks with the President of the Russian Federation. Taking advantage of the fact that they were all together at the same time, Mr. Putin, Mr. Sargsyan and Mr. Aliyev held a tripartite meeting on 10 August during which they discussed aspects of the continued search for a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

It was important that after a long break – the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan had not met since November 2013 – the leaders of the three countries were able once again to sit at the same table. They were able to address all of the issues connected with the various aspects of the work being carried out by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan with the assistance of Russia, the United States of America and France, the countries co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group.

The Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan once again confirmed their adherence to the principles expounded at a high level by the Co-Chair countries stating the need to find a

resolution by exclusively peaceful means while respecting territorial integrity and the right of peoples to self-determination. This is the main thing – after all, there is no greater tragedy than the death of people.

It is not easy to find a just and balanced compromise that truly reflects all of these principles. The conflict situation evolved a long time ago and is a legacy, it might be said, of the past. If a peaceful solution is to be found, there is a need for patience, wisdom and mutual respect. There is no doubt that any complex situation can be resolved if there is goodwill. We believe that this exists. It is important for the dialogue to continue, and at the meeting in Sochi the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan did indeed express their willingness to pursue it. As one of the three co-chairing countries, the Russian Federation will do everything possible to facilitate this.

We should also like to mention that over the past few years the Russian Federation and the other two Co-Chair countries, the United States of America and France, have come to an agreement on the joint investigation of incidents along the line of contact and on the elaboration of additional measures to avert such incidents. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to date to implement the agreement in full measure. All parties, including the Co-Chairs, Armenia and Azerbaijan, understand that there is a need to work on this.

This issue was also discussed during the tripartite meeting in Sochi. The Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan have given instructions to their Ministers for Foreign Affairs to continue this work parallel to agreeing on practical aspects of a settlement.

The tripartite meeting in Sochi was useful. It helped to clarify the positions of the sides, created an atmosphere for frank dialogue on the difficult settlement problems and, we hope, will make it possible to stabilize the situation in the area of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We believe that the next important steps in the settlement process under the auspices of the three Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group will be the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the margins of the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly session in New York and then the summit meeting in Paris, which France has offered to organize.

Thank you for your attention.