
RUSSIA WELCOMES US INTENSIFYING EFFORTS TO SETTLE KARABAKH CONFLICT

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Russia welcomes a possible intensification of the mediation work of the US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Maria Zakharova, spokesperson for Russias Foreign Ministry, told a bring on Thursday, APAs Moscow correspondent reported.

I wouldnt like to talk about a concrete assessment of individual efforts, but there is nothing wrong with intensified efforts, no matter by whom, said Zakharova. Given the complexity of this problem and its possible impact on living there, we wish to see more intensified efforts by the OSCE Minsk Group and its co-chairs.

Of course, serious efforts are needed for the process to go forward and this is something we can only welcome, she added.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict entered its modern phase when the Armenian SRR made territorial claims against the Azerbaijani SSR in 1988.

A fierce war broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. As a result of the war, Armenian armed forces occupied some 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which includes Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts (Lachin, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli and Zangilan), and over a million Azerbaijanis became refugees and internally displaced people.

The military operations finally came to an end when Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in Bishkek in 1994.

Dealing with the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the OSCE Minsk Group, which was created after the meeting of the CSCE (OSCE after the Budapest summit held in Dec.1994) Ministerial Council in Helsinki on 24 March 1992. The Groups members include Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, the United States, France, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Belarus, Finland and Sweden.

Besides, the OSCE Minsk Group has a co-chairmanship institution, comprised of Russian, the US and French co-chairs, which began operating in 1996.

Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of the UN Security Council, which were passed in short intervals in 1993, and other resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, PACE, OSCE, OIC, and other organizations require Armenia to unconditionally withdraw its troops from Nagorno-

Karabakh.

Kaynak/Source: