



**KARABAKH CONFLICT REMAINS ONE OF MOST SERIOUS THREATS TO PEACE, SECURITY
IN OSCE REGION**

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Trend

The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict remains one of the most serious threats to peace and security in the OSCE region, said the message of the Azerbaijani delegation at the Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating states.

"Despite a clear mandate given by the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to OSCE, the prevailing trend we observe within the Organization is merely to defuse the conflict. De-escalating the conflict without withdrawing the Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan would not bring solution to the problem," said the statement.

"We must advance almost unanimous position within the OSCE that the status-quo in the conflict is unsustainable. We must change it, in view of Armenias all kinds of provocations along the front line aimed at escalating conflict," the statement said.

The delegation's statement further said that the latest indiscriminate shelling of civilian settlements, which resulted in death of two Azerbaijanis is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law by Armenia and testifies to systematic policy of targeting civilians with a view to compelling Azerbaijan to react and providing her an excuse to derail the peace efforts.

"It is the current Armenian regimes awareness of imminent legitimacy crisis, once the conflict is resolved, that makes it to act so provocatively. Armenian leadership realises that solving conflict peacefully in accordance with international law would mean restoring sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan over the occupied territories. Therefore, it spares no effort to perpetuate the current status-quo to make the regime survivable," the statement said.

"Armenia has to understand that by increasing its reliance on current status-quo, it runs a risk of completely losing its independence and becoming a tool in political games in the region. It is only by resolving the conflict peacefully and restoring good-neighbourly relations with Azerbaijan and other countries of the region that Armenia can secure an independent and prosperous future for its nation, and benefit from development of the region," the delegation said at the meeting.

The message of the delegation further said that Foreign Minister of Armenia lost the opportunity of dialogue in Mauerbach.

"He delivered accusatory statement full of baseless allegations against Azerbaijan. Such statement may yield desired outcome for domestic political considerations, but this was not that was expected from him in the OSCE. Everybody in this hall knows who is the aggressor and who is the aggrieved in the context of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. The question is what the Armenian Minister tried to accomplish with his statement. If he thinks that in this way he can contribute to restoration of trust and confidence in the Organization, then clearly he failed," said the statement.

"The Armenian Minister sounded extremely provocative in view of planned meeting with Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group later today in Brussels. We strongly encourage the Armenian Delegation to take constructive position, as expected, both here in the OSCE and in negotiations in Brussels." - delegation said.

Kaynak/Source: