
MOSCOW WELCOMES AGREEMENT REACHED AT GENEVA MEETING OF AZERBAIJANI, ARMENIAN PRESIDENTS

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27.10.2017

Apa.Az (26 October 2017)

Moscow welcomes the agreement reached by the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Geneva to take additional steps to intensify the negotiation process and to reduce tensions along the line of contact, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova told a briefing on Thursday, an APA correspondent reported from Moscow.

Zakharova reiterated Russias support for the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group aimed at resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

At present, the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs are working on organizing a meeting of the Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers, she said, noting with regret that the situation in the conflict zone remains complicated.

Moscow urges Baku and Yerevan to demonstrate a constructive approach to find solutions to unresolved issues, added Zakharova.

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 December 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: