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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1282nd (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 September 2020

In connection with the exacerbation of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Andrzej Kasprzyk, for the analysis he has presented in connection with the drastic aggravation of the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

We fully concur with the approaches outlined in the special statement issued by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group on 27 September.

Russia is extremely concerned about the ongoing large-scale military actions in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. We are deeply disturbed by the sides' widespread use of heavy weapons and armoured vehicles and by the information coming in on casualties and fatalities, also among the civilian population.

We are taking active steps aimed at facilitating an urgent de-escalation of the situation. It is to that end that the matter was discussed during a telephone conversation between the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, and also during contacts between Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Azerbaijani and Armenian counterparts, Jeyhun Bayramov and Zohrab Mnatsakanyan. There has been an exchange of views with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, on the situation in the conflict zone.

We consider it to be essential for there to be an immediate and full ceasefire along with stabilization of the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, and for the parties to the conflict to display maximum restraint. A ceasefire regime must be established and unconditionally observed thereafter.

We call on the sides to enter into negotiations at once with a view to de-escalating the confrontation and resuming peaceful dialogue on a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We are counting on all our partners to refrain from destructive declarations and to act in a spirit of solidarity so as to persuade the belligerents to cease the fighting and return to negotiations.

As a member of the “troika” of Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, Russia will continue, in close co-ordination with France and the United States of America, its mediating efforts aimed at helping the sides to develop a mutually acceptable, consensus-based framework for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. The effectiveness of the assistance provided by the “troika” of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs as mediators depends above all on the parties to the conflict themselves, namely on their having the political will that is required to achieve a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at the negotiating table. Attempts to call into question the Co-Chairs’ role – which has been confirmed in decisions by the OSCE and the United Nations Security Council – and their work merely serve to complicate further the challenging processes involved in such a settlement.

Thank you for your attention.