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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1439th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 September 2023

**In response to the address by Mr. Vahe Gevorgyan, Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Armenia**

We welcome you, esteemed Vahe Armenovich, to this special meeting of the Permanent Council.

The Russian Federation continues to make every effort to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh as soon as possible and to prevent an escalation of tensions in the region. Relevant work with all the parties involved is taking place through political and diplomatic channels at all levels, as well as directly on the ground through the Russian peacekeeping contingent.

The implementation of a compromise arrangement proposed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, is on the agenda – an arrangement that provides for the parallel opening of both the Lachin corridor and the Ağdam route for the movement of civilians and non-military goods in both directions. Thanks to Russia’s efforts, a pilot delivery of humanitarian supplies to the population of Nagorno-Karabakh via Ağdam was carried out by the Russian Red Cross this morning. There was a particular focus on promoting the “Lavrov formula” during the visits to Yerevan and Baku undertaken by Igor Khovaev, the Russian Foreign Minister’s special representative for issues relating to the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, in late August and early September of this year.

Russia believes that a resolution of the current crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh would create the necessary preconditions for the launching of direct dialogue between the authorities in Baku and the authorized representatives of the region’s Armenian population, and that it would enable a return to smooth progress in the implementation of the only viable road map for reconciliation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which consists in the series of statements by the President of Russia, the President of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of Armenia made from 2020 to 2022. Their key components are the delimitation and subsequent demarcation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border with Russia’s expert assistance; the unblocking of transport links as a result of the work of the trilateral working group, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers; support for the negotiation of a peace treaty; and the promotion of dialogue between parliamentarians and public figures. This would make it possible to achieve a lasting settlement – something in which all the countries in the region are interested.

At the present juncture it is extremely important, in our view, to refrain from politicizing what are purely humanitarian issues, and to abstain from confrontational pronouncements and actions that could complicate an already tense situation. We call upon the parties to demonstrate a responsible approach and restraint for the sake of establishing a long-awaited peace in the South Caucasus. The Russian Federation will continue to make every conceivable effort to that end.

Thank you for your attention.