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# **Russia and Azerbaijan against changing state borders by force**

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Azerbaijan and Russia are going to strengthen their cooperation in the South Caucasus and the Caspian region, reads the Friendship and Cooperation Declaration signed by the Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents on Thursday. According to the document, the sides are against changing the internationally recognized borders by force, and evaluate this as inadmissible. The document reads about the necessity to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the commonly adopted norms and principles of international law as soon as possible. This should be based on sovereignty and territorial integrity, the inviolability of state borders, and the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the OSCE decisions.

The Declaration noted the necessity of efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the problem, and to provide the voluntary and safe return of the displaced people to their native places.

The document expressed satisfaction with the work of the commission for the delimitation of state borders. The necessity of completing the negotiations as soon as possible in order to sign the final international agreement was noted.

The Declaration expressed the wish of the sides to strengthen and expand their military- technical cooperation. According to the document, the sides and their departments, services and other organizations should not do anything against the sovereign and legal rights and interests of each other.

Baku and Moscow called on the Caspian states to sign agreements similar to those signed by Azerbaijan, Russia and Kazakhstan on the delimitation of the Caspian seabed to use the sea's natural resources efficiently and justly.

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