
Azerbaijani Foreign Minister : There Are Several New Factors In The Position Of New Armenian Authorities

By Tamara Grigoryeva-APA
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"The conflict parties are coordinated to conduct negotiations at St. Petersburg meeting of familiarization character. Co-chairs should visit the region and have meetings in both countries.

The positions of the parties should be coordinated basing on current proposals", Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov said, APA reports.

He noted that 40-45-minute meeting was held between Foreign Ministries of the two countries before St. Petersburg meeting of the Presidents. The Minister added that the co-chairs needed time for coordination of positions of the parties and stressed that there were new factors in the position of new Armenian authorities.

"Though position of new Armenian authorities does not differ from the previous one, there are new nuances. We are working on the proposals presented in Madrid. There are several uncoordinated factors in these proposals. These factors are of principal character. The co-chairs have discussed several factors with the opposite side and we expect whether their positions will be coordinated or not. Time is needed for it", he said.

To him, the current situation cannot last eternally. Time is needed for the solution to the conflict.

"Azerbaijan wants solution to the conflict within a short time. I say to my Armenian counterpart that you cannot escape occupying our lands, you should pursue neighborhood policy and it coincides with your interests. I want to believe that if Armenia understands it, we will achieve peace and stability soon.

This conflict is at odds with the Armenia's national interests". Mammadyarov announced the compromise steps Azerbaijan could make for the solution of the conflict. "Azerbaijan makes compromise advocating of the peace. Secondly, we agree to hold discussions over the Nagorno Karabakh's status. The status issue will be discussed when it reaches the phase of serious dialogue. We support the status of Nagorno Karabakh only within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. In this regard we are ready to continue the negotiations. I repeatedly told the Armenian side to work on the models of all autonomies in the world. If you prefer we can take the model of Tataristan. Armenian troops should be withdrawn from Karabakh, displaced persons should return home and stability, economic development and communication should be provided at first for the solution of the conflict. Only after that we can proceed to status discussions". Saying that the negotiation process should be developed within the OSCE Minsk Group, the minister emphasized importance of the sustainable international attention to the conflict. "Therefore Azerbaijan is always raising the Nagorno Karabakh issue in UN, Council of Europe, Organization of Islamic Conference and other organizations and will do it further. We can not agree with the secret discussions on the issue. The international community should be informed about the going on process. If there will be significant progress in the negotiations we can move to any format".

Mammadyarov noted that Armenians living in Nagorno Karabakh are the citizens of Azerbaijan and said that the occupied territories, including Nagorno Karabakh also had to take their parts of the development of Azerbaijan.

"Armenians living there can also take advantages from the economic development in the country as the citizens of Azerbaijan".
