

Blinken encourages continued progress by Armenia and Azerbaijan to finalize peace treaty



U.S. - U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers, New York, September 26, 2024.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in New York on September 26 for trilateral talks on a peace deal between the two South Caucasus nations.

“Secretary Blinken commended both ministers on the progress Armenia and Azerbaijan have made toward a durable and dignified peace and encouraged continued progress by both countries to finalize an agreement as soon as possible,” said Matthew Miller, the U.S. State Department spokesman.

“The Secretary underscored that a peace agreement would bring increased stability and prosperity to the region,” Miller added in a short statement.

“The parties agreed to put additional efforts towards the conclusion of the Agreement on Peace and Establishment of Interstate Relations in the shortest possible period,” the Armenian Foreign Ministry said for its part.

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry issued a similar readout of the talks.

The official statements did not clarify whether Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov made more progress towards the peace treaty. Their latest meeting came more than a week after Blinken’s separate phone calls with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

PM Pashinyan meets with India’s Modi

‘Shoulder to shoulder’, Macron reiterates support for Armenia

Pashinyan says strong UN support to Armenia’s efforts for peace is crucial

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PM Pashinyan meets with India's Modi

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi within the framework of the Summit of the Future during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York City.

“Wonderful to have met Prime Minister

Nikol Pashinyan of Armenia on the sidelines of the Summit of the Future at the UN earlier today,” PM Modi said in a post on X.

The Armenian Prime Minister delivered a [speech](#) at the Summit of the Future.

Armenia has unambiguous political will to swiftly sign peace treaty with Azerbaijan, FM tells Italian counterpart

Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ararat Mirzoyan has held a meeting with his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani within the framework of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York City.

FM Mirzoyan and FM Tajani discussed regional developments, the foreign ministry said in a readout. They discussed the steps taken by Armenia in the direction of establishing peace in South Caucasus.

FM Mirzoyan underscored that Armenia has clear political will to swiftly sign a peace treaty with Azerbaijan and the latest proposal sent to Baku regarding the draft peace treaty was directed towards it.

The Armenian Foreign Minister stressed that Armenia's vision on ensuring regional stability is based on the principles of unconditional respect for territorial integrity and inviolability of



borders, as well as initiatives aimed at economic interconnectivity.

The prospects of deepening Armenia-EU partnership were also discussed.

Armenian, German foreign ministers discuss EU cooperation, regional developments

On September 24, on the margins of the UN General Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with Annalena Baerbock, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The foreign ministers discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest: bilateral agenda, deepening of the Armenia-EU partnership as well as regional topics, the foreign ministry said in a readout.

“We highly appreciate Germany's support for the continuous and effective implementation of democratic reforms in Armenia both bilaterally and through

the EU platform. This, of course, brings Armenia closer to the European Union, as we explore more prospects for cooperation”,- emphasized the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the Armenia-EU cooperation is developing in numerous important directions, reflected in the new Armenia-EU partnership agenda.

The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Germany thoroughly touched upon the regional developments.

In the context of the security situation in the South Caucasus, views were

exchanged on the latest developments in the normalization process of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations. FM Ararat Mirzoyan stressed that, at the moment, there is a real chance of signing the peace treaty for the realization of which a firm political will is necessary, which Armenia has clearly expressed.



Pashinyan says strong UN support to Armenia's efforts for peace is crucial

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated in the discussion on "Leadership for peace: United in respect of the UN Charter, in search of a secure future" at UN Security Council.

Welcoming the attendees, the Prime Minister first thanked the Slovenian side for organizing this open discussion and added: "The global security crisis has undermined the multilateral system. We continue to witness an increasing number of conflicts and crises that have a heavy impact on civilians, including the most vulnerable."

"The United Nations must resist attempts to create situations where the use of force in interstate relations, acts of aggression, gross violations of human rights

and international humanitarian law are considered normal," he noted.

"As the topic of today's discussion is "Leadership for Peace", I want to share my belief that peace requires leadership and genuine political courage. I and the Government led by me are committed to ending the conflict in our region and transforming the current dynamics into cooperation for prosperity, stability and peace. Armenia is ready to sign a peace treaty with Azerbaijan. The Armenian side proposed to sign the already agreed articles of the peace treaty before the COP29 in Baku, thus creating a stimulating environment to advance the peace process," PM Pashinyan stated.

He noted that the Crossroads of Peace initiative of the Government of Armenia aims to unlock the economic potential of the region and strengthen economic and cultural ties, thereby promoting political dialogue and the achievement of comprehensive peace for the benefit of all peoples. "We are ready to use the positive momentum and continue the border demarcation process based on the regulation between our demarcation commissions based on the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration."

"Strong and unequivocal support from the United Nations to Armenia's efforts to achieve just and durable peace in the region is crucial," the Prime Minister emphasized.



Minister of Defense of Cyprus Vasilis Palmas has described his visit to Armenia as a guarantee of the strong ties, friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Armenian counterpart Suren Papikyan, Palmas thanked him for the warm reception and "extremely important and constructive discussions."

"Our countries have rich history,

Armenia-Cyprus cooperation includes defense procurement sector – minister Palmas

common cultural heritage, and a deep understanding of the challenges that small states must overcome and withstand. Small states that are determined to defend their territorial integrity and sovereignty," Palmas said.

He said that Armenia and Cyprus have developed substantial, developing ties and cooperation in defense and security. "Our cooperation includes mutual visits of military personnel, joint exercises and trainings, as well as the defense procurement sector. The partnership of our armed forces has further strengthened thanks to this format, and at the same time the mutual respect and mutual understanding has developed. We assess our relationship

to be excellent," the Cypriot defense minister said.

Cyprus supports the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of borders of the Republic of Armenia, the Minister of Defense of Cyprus Vasilis Palmas has said.

"Finding a format of stability and sustainable peace is extremely important for us all," Palmas said in Yerevan.

He said Armenia and Cyprus have potential to further strengthen defense cooperation, for example to enhance the format of joint military exercises, find a format of cooperation in defense and technologies, and the military sector cooperation of educational institutions.

Armenia has a clear political will to sign a peace treaty with Azerbaijan, Pashinyan tells Kyriakos Mitsotakis

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a meeting with Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

The Prime Minister of Greece congratulated Nikol Pashinyan on the anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia and emphasized the importance of development of multilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister thanked for the

congratulatory words and noted that the Armenian government attaches great importance to the expansion of relations with Greece and the deepening of multi-sector relations.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the latest developments in the process of normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations.

Reference was made to the steps taken

by Armenia in the direction of establishing peace. The Prime Minister emphasized that Armenia has a clear political will to sign a peace treaty with Azerbaijan, and now a historic opportunity has been provided to establish peace in the region.

The Prime Minister of Armenia discussed issues related to bilateral agenda and Armenia-EU partnership with his counterpart.

‘Shoulder to shoulder’, Macron reiterates support for Armenia

French President Emmanuel Macron has reiterated support for Armenia.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York City, Macron said that France stands “shoulder to shoulder” with Armenia when the latter is facing Azerbaijani pressure and territorial ambitions.

“Together with the Prime Minister



[Pashinyan], France stands shoulder to shoulder with Armenia in conditions of Azerbaijani pressure and territorial intentions. The international community must be there to ensure the success of peace talks and preservation of the internationally recognized borders,” the French President said in his speech.

Council of Europe ready to expand cooperation with Armenia

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a meeting with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Alain Berset.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of cooperation with the Council of Europe in the implementation of democratic reforms in our country. Nikol Pashinyan stressed that the development of democracy is of strategic importance for the Armenian Government and our country will consistently continue to take steps in that direction.

Alain Berset emphasized the readiness of the Council of Europe to expand cooperation with Armenia for the effective implementation of institutional reforms.

The interlocutors discussed

issues related to further cooperation and projects.

Prime Minister Pashinyan referred to the discussions on the peace treaty with Azerbaijan. Reiterating the commitment of the Armenian Government to the peace agenda, the Prime Minister emphasized once again that Armenia is ready to sign the treaty based on the agreed articles and continue further discussions.

Speaking about the assertion of the Azerbaijani side that no agreement can contradict the Constitution, the Prime Minister noted that according to Article 5, Clause 3 of the current Constitution of Armenia, international agreements ratified by the Republic of Armenia have

a superior force over the legislation of Armenia. In other words, the ratified international agreement is higher than the law of the Republic of Armenia.

At the same time, Nikol Pashinyan noted that there are territorial claims against Armenia in the Constitution of Azerbaijan, but the Armenian side does not make it a negotiation topic, because there is a provision in the agreed text of the peace treaty, according to which none of the parties can refer to its domestic legislation as justification for not implementing the provisions of the given international agreement.

The interlocutors also exchanged ideas on other issues of mutual interest.

Fight against transnational crime elevated to a new level: Armenia and Eurojust sign agreement

Armenia and Eurojust have signed a working arrangement to implement the agreement on cooperation between Armenia’s authorities and the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) in criminal proceedings. The document was signed by Armenian Minister of Justice Grigor Minasyan, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Armenia Anna Vardapetyan, and President of Eurojust Ladislav Hamran.

“Today, we conclude the most important stage of the agreement with Eurojust, as we now have the actual process of implementation on the ground. This elevates our fight against transnational crime to a new level, enabling cooperation between leading institutions and

introducing a completely new toolkit for combating crime,” said Minister of Justice Grigor Minasyan.

According to him, the document is evidence of the government’s work within the



framework of judicial-legal reforms. “The focus of this agreement is data sharing. All our partners and departments should aim for this new milestone, ensuring that our data and databases meet the necessary

standards for secure and highly protected transmission,” said the minister.

Armenia will have a Prosecutor for Cooperation at Eurojust. The document regulates the details regarding the assignment of the Prosecutor for Cooperation, including the scope of their activities. After the signing, a transparent process for selecting the prosecutor will begin in cooperation with the Prosecutor General’s Office.

“Today, you become the 14th non-EU member state to join Eurojust, and this also means that you can assign a coordinating or personnel-responsible prosecutor to our headquarters in The Hague,” said Eurojust President Ladislav Hamran.

Nikol Pashinyan met with Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New York.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the PM's office said in a readout.

The parties made a detailed reference to the steps already taken and the existing agreements within the framework of the process of normalization of Armenia-Turkey relations.

They emphasized the readiness to continue the settlement process without preconditions and give a new impulse to the relations. The parties also addressed regional issues.

Prime Minister Pashinyan informed President Erdogan about the current situation of the Armenia-Azerbaijan settlement process, the readiness to sign the agreement on the settlement of relations, as



well as the "Crossroads of Peace" initiative of the Armenian government.

Kamala Harris pledges continued support to Armenia, says Armenians' right to return to Nagorno Karabakh 'vital'

US Vice President Kamala Harris has sent best wishes to the Armenian American community on the occasion of Armenia's Independence Day.

"While we celebrate, we must also never forget the Armenian Genocide, when an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were deported, massacred, and marched to their deaths. It is a tragedy that continues to shape the identity of the Armenian people. The Armenian American community's resilience remains a source of inspiration in our collective American story," Harris said.

"I remain committed to a lasting peace

between Armenia and its neighbors that respects sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity," the Vice-President noted.

She emphasized that the right for Armenians displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh to return safely to their homes is vital to restoring dignity to the Armenian people and stability to the region.

Harris pledged to continue to support Armenia in its efforts to strengthen democracy and foster stability in the region.

"Armenia and its people have a rich history that inspires us all to strive for

liberty and justice. I remain committed to deepening the bonds between our nations and fostering a partnership that uplifts our shared values and aspirations. Together, we can build a more secure, just, and free world," Kamala Harris concluded.



Armenian Foreign Minister, OSCE Chairman-in-office discuss South Caucasus security situation

On September 23, in New York City, within the framework of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with Ian Borg, OSCE Chairman-in-office, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Trade of Malta.

Issues related to OSCE activities and decisions under consideration within Malta's presidency were discussed, the foreign ministry said in a readout.

The current security situation and processes in the South Caucasus were touched upon.

Reiterating the commitment of the Armenian side to establish stability in the South Caucasus, FM Ararat Mirzoyan stressed the importance of not creating artificial impediments on the path to concluding the peace treaty and signing it in the shortest timeframe.

U.S. Government Announces \$20,600,000 Support to Armenia



Secretary of State Blinken and USAID Administrator Power spotlight democratic progress in Armenia and announce \$20,600,000 from the United States to bolster progress.

New commitments announced at the UN General Assembly will support government reform efforts and facilitate improvements to public services as part of USAID's Democracy Delivers Initiative.

On September 25, at the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) "Democracy Delivers" event on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and USAID Administrator Samantha Power, in partnership with the Ford Foundation, convened fellow government leaders, philanthropic partners, and civil society to increase support to Armenia and other countries experiencing democratic openings around the world.

Working with Congress, USAID and the U.S. Department of State announced \$20 million for Armenia to bolster

cyber, border, and energy security and to strengthen resilience against complex threats and challenges.

An additional \$600,000 of Promoting Information Integrity and Resilience Initiative (ProInfo) funding has been announced through USAID to enhance the technological capacities of independent media to produce impactful and public interest journalism, leverage innovation to promote media and information literacy, and to bolster the local advocacy for key media reforms in Armenia.

This \$20,600,000 in new support for Armenia builds upon approximately \$11.9 million in funding announced during [Administrator Power's July 2024 visit](#) to Yerevan. That funding will strengthen economic resilience, advance digital transformation, and support disaster preparedness.

Nikol Pashinyan, Prime Minister of Armenia, joined the event alongside leaders and senior representatives from countries experiencing democratic openings and highlighted Armenia's democratic progress welcoming new investments and collaborations furthering democratic resilience.

Secretary Blinken and Administrator Power launched the Democracy Delivers Initiative in 2022 to bring together a

multi-stakeholder coalition of partners and surge resources to countries undergoing moments of democratic renewal to help deliver tangible, lasting progress for citizens. By prioritizing responsiveness to citizen needs and enhancing transparency and accountability, these commitments will strengthen government reform efforts and facilitate improvements to public services.

"In July, I traveled to Yerevan to build on this essential progress and see the work the Armenian people are putting into their democracy firsthand. And now, I'm pleased to take this moment to announce that, working with Congress, USAID and the Department of State will provide \$20 million for Armenia to bolster cyber, border, and energy security and to further strengthen its resilience," said Administrator Power in her opening remarks.

Continuing the momentum of the [Summit for Democracy](#) process and building upon previous Democracy Delivers events, the gathering underscored the United States' continued commitment to convening the world's democracies and to galvanize collective and sustained action and ensure that democracy delivers opportunity and dignity for all.

Together, we can prove that democracy can win and deliver for all.

Armenia economic activity index grows 9%

Armenia's economic activity index grew 9% in January-August 2024 compared to the same period of last year, according to the Statistical Committee data.

Below is the YoY data for January-August 2024.

The industrial production output grew 13,7%.

Construction grew 16,2%.



Trade turnover grew 20,4%.

Services grew 5,2%.

The consumer price index decreased 0,1%, while the industrial product price index grew 2,9%. Electricity production grew 0,6%.

Foreign trade grew 70,9% (exports grew twice, while imports grew 86,8%.)

World Bank publishes Armenia monthly economic update - September 2024



In July, economic growth eased to 6.2% year-on-year, down from 7% in June. Inflation rose to 1.3% year-on-year in August. Re-exports of gold and jewelry continued to drive export and import growth in July. A deficit of AMD 69 billion in July brought the cumulative budget balance from January to July to an AMD 58 billion deficit. Additionally, commercial bank deposits and credits grew by approximately 2% month-on-month in July, according to the Armenia Monthly Economic Update – September 2024, published by the World Bank.

In July, the economic activity index eased to 6.2 percent (yoy), from 7 percent (yoy) in June (Figure 1). Trade growth eased to 14 percent (yoy) in July from 16.2 percent (yoy) in June. Growth in services (other than trade) also fell, to 4.9 percent (yoy) in July from 7.8 percent (yoy) in June. Over the same period, construction continued to grow at approximately 18 percent (yoy). Growth in industry improved slightly, from 1.3 percent (yoy) in June to 2.2 percent (yoy) in July, driven mainly by greater electricity and energy growth (13 percent, yoy). Manufacturing growth remained low at 2.5 percent, with contraction in most major production sub-items: food, beverages, and jewelry products went down by 5 percent (yoy), 4.4 percent (yoy), and 27 percent (yoy), respectively. This was compensated by growing production in cigarettes (21 percent, yoy), textiles (23 percent, yoy), and base metals (74 percent, yoy). Mining continued to decline, but at a slower rate of 5.4 percent (yoy) in July compared with 10.7 percent in June. Cumulatively, economic activity grew 9.6 percent (yoy) in January-July.

Non-commercial, net money transfers contracted 38.1 percent (yoy) in July, driven by a 23.1 percent fall in inflows. Year-on-year, money transfer inflows from Russia fell 42 percent in July, while growing slightly month-on-month. Meanwhile, inflows from the USA grew 8.8 percent (yoy) (Figure 2). Money transfer outflows (particularly to the UK and the USA) also increased, contributing to the decline in net inflows. Outflows to Russia contracted 13 percent (yoy).

In August, inflation rose for the third consecutive month, following a period of falling inflation since October 2023. Inflation in August was 1.3 percent (yoy), bringing average inflation for January-August 2024 to -0.1 percent. Transport prices increased 9.1 percent in August (yoy), driven by a 9 percent increase in excises and higher imported petroleum prices. Food and non-alcoholic beverages posted 1 percent inflation in August (yoy). In early September, the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) lowered its policy rate further, by 25 basis points, to 7.5 percent, the fifth consecutive cut since the beginning of 2024.

Re-exports of gold and jewelry continued to be a key driver of export growth in July (Figure 4). Merchandise exports and imports grew 42.8 percent (yoy) and 30.7 percent (yoy), respectively, driven by an increase in exports (5.2-fold) and imports (5.9-fold) of precious and semi-precious stones and metals (mostly gold and jewelry). However, exports of precious and semi-precious stones and metals dropped by 11.6 percent comparing with previous month, with their share of total exports reaching 48.5 percent, much lower than their 75 percent share in early 2024. Minerals, ready foods, and agricultural exports grew 15 percent (yoy), 11 percent (yoy), and 52 percent (yoy), respectively. In July, machinery, equipment, and devices exports, and vehicles, the two highest growing export commodity groups in 2023, contracted by 21 percent (yoy) and 86 percent (yoy), respectively. Excluding precious and semi-precious stones, exports of machineries (mostly mobile phones) and

vehicles increased 6 percent (yoy) in July. Over the January-July period, exports and imports grew 121.2 percent and 79.1 percent, respectively, resulting in a 14.5 percent increase in the trade balance deficit.

The AMD was relatively stable against the USD and the RUB over the June-August period. Compared with 2023, the AMD to USD exchange rate was just 0.5 percent weaker at end-August (yoy), while the AMD to RUB had depreciated 6.2 percent, (yoy)(Figure 5). In Q2 2024, the CBA purchased USD 256.5 million to smooth exchange rate fluctuations. International reserves continued to build up, increasing USD 260 million in July-August, to USD 3.6 billion (equivalent to 3 months of import cover), yet still 13 percent lower than reserves at end-July 2023.

A budget deficit of AMD 69 billion (yoy) was recorded in July. This was largely driven by an increase in expenditure. Total expenditure expanded by 24.4 percent (yoy), due mostly to a 19.6 percent (yoy) increase in current expenditure. Capital expenditure also expanded 43.6 percent (yoy), driven by defense and road network improvements. Notably, in nominal terms tax revenues grew 14.6 percent (yoy) in July; however, netting out mortgage-related income tax refunds (as treated in previous years), total tax revenues increased only 2.3 percent (yoy). Turnover and excise collection, the main contributor to increased taxes, expanded 15.6 percent (yoy) and 12.4 percent (yoy), respectively. In contrast, VAT collections remained flat. Cumulatively, the January-July budget balance showed a deficit of AMD 58 billion (0.6 percent of annual projected GDP), compared with the AMD 96.4 billion surplus recorded in the same period of 2023 (Figure 6).

Commercial bank deposits and credits expanded by 1.6 percent (mom) and 2 percent (mom) in July, mostly driven by AMD-denominated funds. Financial indicators remained sound, with a 20.3 percent CAR, a low ratio for NPLs (1.2 percent), and a reported 4.5 percent return on assets.

President, Speaker of Parliament and Cabinet ministers visit Yerablur on war anniversary

President Vahagn Khachaturyan, Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan, as well as other top officials visited on Friday the Yerablur military cemetery to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers on the occasion of the anniversary of the 2020 war.

Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Khachaturyan, Vice Speaker of Parliament Ruben Rubinyan, Vice Speaker of Parliament Hakob Arshakyan, Defense Minister Suren Papikyan, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, Lt. general Edward Asryan were among the attendees at the tribute ceremony.

The officials laid flowers to the graves of Vazgen Sargsyan and Andranik Ozanyan, and placed a wreath at the monument dedicated to the memory of fallen troops.



Armenia, EU officials discuss security relations and European Peace Facility aid



Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia, Armen Grigoryan, during his visit

to Brussels, met with Deputy Secretary General for Peace, Security and Defense of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Charles Fries.

In a statement, Grigoryan said he discussed with Charles Fries the “agenda of the Armenia-EU security relations and existing opportunities.”

They also discussed the activity of the EU civilian monitoring mission,

underscoring its significance in terms of ensuring regional security. “We also discussed the provision of aid to Armenia through the European Peace Facility, highlighting it in terms of increasing Armenia’s resilience,” Grigoryan added.

Grigoryan said he also met with representatives of research centers and presented Armenia’s approaches, foreign policy and security priorities.

Armenia and Greece’s Foreign Ministers discuss bilateral cooperation



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Giorgos Gerapetritis in New York.

The interlocutors touched upon the issues of cooperation between the two countries in various formats, in line with the close political dialogue and shared values.

The interlocutors exchanged views on the steps taken in the direction of the development of the Armenia-EU new Partnership Agenda. The already recorded achievements were emphasized: the EU monitoring mission, the launch of the dialogue on visa liberalization, support to Armenia under the European Peace

Facility, as well as further opportunities for deepening the cooperation, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a readout.

Minister Mirzoyan stressed that Armenia highly appreciates the strong support of Greece and other partners in the direction of forming closer relations with the EU, in line with the aspirations of the citizens of Armenia.

Views were exchanged on issues of cooperation between Armenia and Greece in the direction of enhancing regional security and stability.

We are ready to cooperate with our Armenian friends to elevate our relations to a higher level - Chinese envoy

The 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China was solemnly celebrated at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Armenia.

China's Acting Chargé d'Affaires in Armenia, Chen Ming, in his welcoming speech, noted that over the past three quarters of a century, the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party, had long

sought for a path through continuous struggle, and had finally successfully found a model of Chinese modernization suited to the country, creating a new form of human civilization and leading the nation toward a great renaissance.

"Openness is a defining feature of Chinese modernization. While some countries are severing ties and disrupting supply chains, openness is becoming a 'scarce phenomenon' in today's world. China remains committed to an open foreign policy, sharing the benefits and opportunities of development with the global community. China advocates for equal and orderly multipolarity and for comprehensive and inclusive economic globalization. China promotes the development of the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, establishes a global network of high-standard free trade zones, develops platforms for international economic cooperation, and fosters a competitive business environment grounded in market, legal, and international principles," said Chen Ming.

He reminded that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the declaration of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. Over the years, the aforementioned principles have become the main norms of



international relations and fundamental principles of international law, receiving wide recognition and application by the international community.

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and China. Friendly relations between the two countries continue to develop in a healthy and stable manner.

According to Chen Ming, since the onset of the pandemic, a new level of high-level interaction between Armenia and China has emerged.

According to him the practical cooperation between the two sides opens up new opportunities.

"In the first half of this year, bilateral trade between Armenia and China exceeded 1.4 billion US dollars, marking an increase of more than 40 percent compared to the previous year. The number of Chinese tourists who arrived in Armenia reached approximately 11,500, which is 1.1 times more than last year. Earlier this month, China Southern Airlines launched a direct flight from Urumqi to Yerevan for the first time, establishing the first direct air service between China and Armenia. This initiative further facilitates travel for

citizens of both countries based on a reciprocal visa-free regime," said China's Acting Chargé d'Affaires in Armenia.

The diplomat reminded that the Yerevan Municipality recently acquired a batch of Chinese buses, and well-known Chinese brands such as BYD, Haier, and Jetour have opened specialized stores in Armenia.

"The Chinese government continually supports Chinese companies in actively exploring foreign markets and engaging in mutually beneficial cooperation. It also encourages strong and reliable Chinese companies to invest in Armenia, contributing to the country's development and economic growth striving for common prosperity.

China and Armenia are both historically ancient civilizations, and the peoples of both countries strive for peace, respect traditions. Day by day, more and more young people in Armenia are choosing to learn Chinese and explore Chinese culture. The Confucius Institute is actively developing and playing an important role in promoting Chinese language learning and cultural exchange. On the international stage, China and Armenia, as developing countries, jointly uphold the goals and principles of the UN Charter," he said.

"Official Beijing highly values the steadfast support of the Armenian side for the 'One China' principle. We are ready to cooperate with our Armenian friends to promote our traditional friendship, work together, and elevate our relations to a higher level in order to bring greater prosperity to the peoples of both countries," concluded China's Acting Chargé d'Affaires in Armenia, Chen Ming.

Azeri constitution's territorial claims against Armenia “no obstacle” because peace treaty would overrule internal legislation, says PM Pashinyan

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, speaking at the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, once again denied Azerbaijani allegations that the Armenian constitution contains territorial claims against it.

He said there are no territorial claims on Azerbaijan in the constitution, and Armenia can provide detailed written proofs regarding this to all international partners concerned.

PM Pashinyan said it is the Constitution of Azerbaijan that contains territorial claims on the Republic of Armenia and Armenia can present written argumentation on this as well to all international partners concerned. However, he noted that this is not an obstacle because the peace agreement would resolve the issue.

Pashinyan said that after signing the peace treaty with Azerbaijan the document will be submitted to the Constitutional Court to check its constitutionality, as in case of any international treaty. And in case of the high court determining that it contradicts with the constitution “then we will face a specific situation where constitutional changes will be needed for the sake of achieving peace.”

The Armenian Prime Minister said that Armenia is ready to sign a peace agreement with Azerbaijan on the already agreed upon articles, a move that would “significantly facilitate the solution of the remaining issues.”

“Azerbaijan, however, insists that the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia is an obstacle to the peace Agreement, because it allegedly contains territorial claims on Azerbaijan. Without going into details, let me say that there is nothing of this kind in our Constitution, there are no territorial claims on Azerbaijan, and we can provide detailed written proofs



Peace Agreement with Azerbaijan is in contradiction with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (even though our experts assure that it is not likely to happen), then we will face a specific situation where constitutional changes will be needed for the sake of achieving peace. And if our Constitutional Court decides that the Agreement complies with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, then

there will be no barriers for ratification in the Parliament of Armenia, and here an extremely important circumstance comes in. Under Paragraph 3 of Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, ratified international agreements have precedence over the domestic legislation of the Republic of Armenia, and therefore, after the signing and ratification of the Peace Agreement with Azerbaijan, theoretically, even if there were laws that could be interpreted as containing territorial claims, these documents would be subordinate to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Agreement and would automatically have no legal force. The same logic would apply to Azerbaijan of course,” Pashinyan said.

regarding this to all our international partners concerned. Moreover, it is the Constitution of Azerbaijan that contains territorial claims on the Republic of Armenia and we can present written argumentation on this as well to all our international partners concerned. But pay attention: we do not consider the Constitution of Azerbaijan as an obstacle to the Peace Agreement for the simple reason, that the agreed part of the draft Peace Agreement contains wording that solves the problem and that wording is as follows: “None of the Parties may invoke the provisions of its internal legislation as justification for its failure to perform the present Agreement”. Therefore, the signing of the Agreement will address the concerns of both Armenia and Azerbaijan and will create legal guarantees for addressing them fundamentally. When we examine the agreed text of the Peace Agreement in terms of compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, we see the following picture: Under the Constitution of Armenia, agreements that contradict the Constitution may not be ratified. And as in other cases, after signing the Peace Agreement with Azerbaijan, we must submit it to the Constitutional Court to verify the compliance of the Agreement with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia. If our Constitutional Court decides that the

there will be no barriers for ratification in the Parliament of Armenia, and here an extremely important circumstance comes in. Under Paragraph 3 of Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, ratified international agreements have precedence over the domestic legislation of the Republic of Armenia, and therefore, after the signing and ratification of the Peace Agreement with Azerbaijan, theoretically, even if there were laws that could be interpreted as containing territorial claims, these documents would be subordinate to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Agreement and would automatically have no legal force. The same logic would apply to Azerbaijan of course,” Pashinyan said.

The Armenian Prime Minister said peace is very close and they need to “reach out and take it.”

“As you can see, here is peace so close to us and all we need to do, is reach out and take it. It is not easy for either Armenia or Azerbaijan, because each of us has our own truth and the debate over those truths has led to enmity, casualties, and wars. The pain is very deep and intense. But we must now focus on peace, because peace is the only truth understandable to the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan. And this truth will open our eyes and shut down the sources of enmity, and we will all look to the future,” he said.

Constitutional Court completes examination of Armenia-Azerbaijan border commission regulation



The Constitutional Court has completed the examination of the Armenia-Azerbaijan regulation on the joint activity of the border delimitation commissions.

The high court has to determine whether the regulation complies with the constitution.

The press service of the Constitutional Court said the justices have retired to the

chambers for deliberations.

Justices Vahe Grigoryan, Edgar Shatiry-an and Davit Khachaturyan are the rapporteurs in the hearing.

If the high court rules that the agreement is constitutional, it will be sent to parliament for ratification.

The hearing is standard procedure in case of all international agreements.

COP29 participants should deliver a clear message to Baku – Human Rights Watch

Governments participating in the 29th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) should fulfill their human rights obligations, Human Rights Watch said in a question-and-answer document released today. This includes transitioning away from fossil fuels in an equitable, time-bound, and rights-respecting manner. The conference will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024.

Governments preparing their national climate plans with emissions reductions targets in 2025 should ensure that they are consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Any plans for increased production of fossil fuels are inconsistent with this target, Human Rights Watch said.

“This is the third straight year that COP takes place in a repressive state that severely limits free speech and peaceful

assembly,” said Myrto Tilianaki, senior environmental advocate at Human Rights Watch. “Governments attending COP29 in Azerbaijan need to be prepared to deliver a clear message that equitable and ambitious climate action needs the meaningful participation of independent voices.”

The Human Rights Watch reminded that Azerbaijan has an authoritarian government that does not tolerate dissent and in recent months has cracked down on independent journalists and civic activists. Those arbitrarily detained include an anti-corruption activist critical of Azerbaijan’s oil and gas sector and a human rights defender who co-founded an initiative that advocated for civic freedoms and environmental justice in Azerbaijan ahead of COP29.

The Azerbaijani government’s hostility toward independent activism

raises concerns about whether civil society groups will be able to participate meaningfully at COP29 and the extent to which environmental activism will take place in Azerbaijan following the conference, Human Rights Watch said.

Oil and gas revenues accounted for 52 percent of Azerbaijan’s state budget in 2022 and about 90 percent of its export revenue. During a high-level meeting in April to prepare for COP29, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev announced plans to expand gas production, mainly in response to European Union market demands, Human Rights Watch reminded.

“Governments shouldn’t allow Azerbaijan to use its position as COP29 host to continue to push the expansion of fossil fuels and undermine efforts to confront the climate crisis and protect human rights,” Tilianaki said.

Minister Mkrtchyan, Libra Group’s George Logothetis discuss joint projects

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia Narek Mkrtchyan has met in New York City with Libra Group Executive Chairman George Logothetis and his wife, Director of Seleni Institute Nitzia Logothetis.

The meeting focused on the expansion of the circle of cooperation: the importance of the continuity of joint work was underscored in the direction of developing professional capacity of youth, creating internship opportunities for students

abroad, as well as exchange of the best experience.

Minister Mkrtchyan and George Logothetis also discussed the details of a jointly implemented program which enables Armenian students to obtain work experience in the United States and other countries in Libra Group companies.

Libra Group’s 20 operating entities include businesses across six continents, in six sectors: Aerospace, renewable energy,

hotels and hospitality services, real estate, maritime, and diversified investments.

Mkrtchyan attached importance to the participation of TUMO Center for Creative Technologies students in the Concordia Summit as a result of the joint work.

The sides agreed to continue discussions to ensure the efficiency of the ongoing projects, as well as in the direction of implementing Concordia Armenia.

“Milk in Schools: Lori and Yerevan” program launched in collaboration with the UN WFP, EDB and Yeremyan Projects

On September 25, the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), the United Nations World Food Program (UN WFP) and the “Yeremyan Projects” Group have officially launched their joint initiative the “Milk in Schools: Lori and Yerevan” program. The date is symbolic, as the last Wednesday of September, which fell on September 25 this year, is celebrated globally as World School Milk Day.

The event was opened with welcoming speeches by the Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, Araksia Svajyan; the representative and country director of the UN World Food Programme in Armenia, Nanna Skau; the head of the EDB Office in Armenia, Armen Melkikyan and the General Director of Yeremyan Projects, Davit Yeremyan.

In her welcome speech, Araksia Svajyan, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport, emphasized: “This is a unique program that brings together the efforts of several international organizations, the private sector, and state institutions. The involvement of private organizations in the educational process and fostering collaboration is very important. Last year, with the support of our partners, Yeremyan Projects and the UN World Food Programme, we implemented a program in the Vayots Dzor region, achieving excellent results. I am confident that all the schools participating in this program will achieve similar success.”

Ahead of the launch, the parties implementing the program visited the schools selected for the program in order to assess the readiness of their kitchens and ensure that the schools are prepared for a smooth and successful start of the program. The WFP is also developing evaluation tools and behavior-change initiatives aimed at fostering healthy eating habits among children.

The event was held in a panel discussion format, with the participation of Armenian Deputy Minister of Economy Tatevik Sargsyan; the UN World Food Programme representative and country director in Armenia, Nanna Skau; the head of the EDB Office in Armenia, Armen Melkikyan; Siddhartha Sankar Datta, World Health Organization Representative and Head of the WHO Country Office in

Armenia; Lusine Yeremyan, Group Marketing and Communications Director, Deputy General Director, and Group Management Board Member of Yeremyan Projects; Satenik Mkrtchyan, Head of the “School Meals and Children’s Welfare” Agency, and Kristine Galstyan, Chief Specialist of the Public Health Department of the Armenian Ministry of Health.

The discussion was moderated by Armen Harutyunyan, a member of the academic council of the Global Fintech Institute of Singapore.

During the panel discussion, the speakers presented both the features of the new phase of the “Milk in Schools” program and the prospects for its implementation. They also discussed the importance of milk as a vital food source for the growth and development of school-aged children and introduced planned measures to promote milk consumption as a healthy food among children and adults in Armenia during breakfast.

“WFP has always prioritized children’s nutrition, health, and well-being, emphasizing their role in academic success and progress. Through the ‘Milk in Schools’ program, we aim to raise awareness among Armenian schoolchildren about the importance of a balanced diet. Thanks to our cooperation with the EDB and Yeremyan Projects, we are contributing to building a healthy future for children in Armenia, starting with a simple but crucial step—drinking a glass of milk a day,” said Nanna Skau, the representative and country director of the UN World Food Programme in Armenia.

“As many of you know, children in Armenia often skip breakfast and are already hungry by 10 a.m., which affects their concentration and focus on lessons. Additionally, because they are hungry after school, they frequently eat unhealthy food,” Ms. Skau emphasized, noting that this event and their initiatives are aimed at helping to eliminate these bad habits and encourage healthier habits among children.

According to Armen Melkikyan, the head of the EDB Office in Armenia, this is their first experience of cooperation with the EDB, WFP, and Yeremyan Projects.

“We are very pleased to have this opportunity, especially since this is the

second phase of our joint project with Yeremyan Projects. We are advancing and expanding our collaboration, starting from farm and milk production to delivering milk to schoolchildren. In addition to supporting local production, we are also contributing to the establishment of a healthy diet among children. We hope that our project will positively influence schoolchildren by reducing their consumption of carbonated and unhealthy drinks,” he said.

Armen Melkikyan also mentioned that the agreement on continuing and expanding this program between the UN World Food Program, the Eurasian Development Bank and the Yeremyan Projects group of companies was signed in June, 2024 during the EDB annual meeting.

“Since that phase, we have begun developing the project. In fact, the first pilot program was already implemented by Yeremyan Projects and the UN World Food Programme. Using it as a good example, we have scaled it up, as the pilot program included 2 schools, while our program will reach a total of 11 schools. A total of 1,350 students will benefit from free access to milk,” Melkikyan elaborated.

The “Milk in Schools” program is an important collaboration aimed at promoting healthy eating and driving behavioral change in Armenia. I am pleased that schools in Yerevan are now included in the second phase of the program. The impressive results from the pilot program implemented in two schools last year, in cooperation with the UN World Food Programme, have led to this expansion. They serve as the best evidence that we are pursuing the right strategy to achieve our goal of fostering a new culture of milk consumption,” said Lusine Yeremyan, Group Marketing and Communications Director, Deputy General Director, and Group Management Board Member of Yeremyan Projects.

According to her, the multilateral cooperation within the framework of the program is exceptional because it involves not only state structures but also the private sector, which is a notable phenomenon.

Speaking about the quality of the company’s products, Lusine Yeremyan emphasized that the milk of Yeremyan Projects is

UNICEF and Germany to scale up social and child protection services for refugee children in Armenia



UNICEF and the German Embassy in Yerevan announced a new contribution of 2,9 million Euros from the German Federal Foreign Office in the framework of [UNICEF's 2023 humanitarian action appeal](#). This donation enables UNICEF to scale up support to refugee children and their families in Armenia until September 2026.

Germany's contribution will help to reach over 25,000 conflict-affected people in Armenia with direct service delivery of humanitarian cash, case management and mental health and psychosocial services, as well as 100,000 individuals with mental health and psychosocial well-being messaging through online platforms.

Ahead of the launch of programmatic activities, the German and UNICEF delegation also visited a child-friendly safe space in Masis, set up by UNICEF and the Armenian Association of Social Workers. The delegation was led by H.E. Ambassador Konrad Arz von Straussenburg, Director for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Southern Caucasus, accompanied by H.E. Claudia Busch, German Ambassador to Armenia. Partners had the chance to interact with community social workers that have also supported refugee families

and provided specialized support and case management.

"Germany is aware of the ongoing challenges that Armenia is confronted with in order to address the needs of more than 115 thousand refugees from Nagorno Karabakh. Therefore, we are extending our funding for the refugee response in the country. Our main goal is to reach out to the most vulnerable refugees who had to leave everything behind. We include in our assistance also people with disabilities, elderly, families, single parents, especially in remote and rural communities. Our cash assistance, mental health / psychosocial support (MHPSS) and provision of inclusive shelters still meets a high demand in Armenia.

We also want to address the burden of the host communities. Therefore, many measures, e.g. the renovation of social institutions, are set up in a way that they will be a benefit for the community as a whole", underlined Konrad Arz von Straussenburg, during his visit.

"This contribution from Germany will enable UNICEF to implement a synergetic mix of cash assistance and care interventions with our partners to address the urgent unmet needs of affected children and their families in close coordination with the national social and child protection systems," noted Silvia Mestroni, UNICEF Acting Representative. "As we mark one year of humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in Armenia, it's important to remember that long-term recovery depends on the recovery of children who have been affected, including support to host communities to match limited resources with

the increased need."

The interlinked interventions will be implemented starting with an assessment of residual needs of refugee children and their families, including children with disabilities, which will help identify and target support where most needed. In collaboration with the state and civil society partners, UNICEF will train social service workforce, including frontline professionals on case management support to affected populations, ranging from the identification of needs to protection from violence, abuse and harmful practices, as well as prevention of family separation.

Social workers will be provided with resources, including awareness raising materials for household visits, to identify and assess children's needs and make referrals to other social services when necessary. Families identified as in need of financial support to address urgent priorities will be provided with multipurpose cash assistance, aligned with the Government cash programme.

UNICEF and partners will also reach families in need of parenting support and mental health and psychosocial assistance through tailored group and individual sessions, evidence-based information and awareness raising, offline and online, ensuring improved psychological well-being and family environment.

For the period 2024/25 Germany is providing almost 5 million Euros through its partner organizations UNICEF (2,9 million Euros) and the NGO Sign of Hope (1,9 million Euros) to the humanitarian response.

page 12 ➡ unique because it is based on the "From seed to table" concept. This means that the company is responsible for the entire milk supply chain and maintains complete control over each stage. Healthy food is a crucial factor in an effective learning process.

The program is founded on the idea that milk consumption during a critical period of development contributes to children's growth, fosters positive habits related to milk consumption, and reduces feelings of hunger in the morning before school meals. This, in turn, enhances concentration in the classroom and decreases

the desire for unhealthy snacks. Therefore, including milk in the school diet is vital for meeting the energy needs of children.

To promote a healthier and more efficient start to the day, not only schools in the regions but also those in Yerevan will receive a glass of milk in the morning. Initially, the program includes 9 schools: 7 in the city of Stepanavan and the communities of Tashir and Metsavan in the Lori region, along with 2 schools in the Ajapnyak and Shengavit administrative districts of Yerevan. The program serves approximately 1,350 students in grades 5 to 9 at these schools.

During the event, a photo series titled "Milk is Love, Strength, and Health" was also presented. Representatives from state structures, non-governmental organizations, international and diplomatic bodies, schools, students, parents, and nutritionists participated in the launch of the "Milk in Schools: Lori and Yerevan" program and the World School Milk Day event.

Davit Mamyán

Published by [Armenpress](#), original at <https://armenpress.am/en/article/1200815>

Afeyan Foundation allocates funding to support families displaced from Artsakh



The Afeyan Foundation, an organization building and advancing solutions for a better world, today announced it has completed the allocation of its previously announced \$2 million USD commitment to help the more than 100,000 people displaced from Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) last year. This financial support follows previous efforts by the Afeyan family to help the people of Artsakh after the forced displacement of the Artsakh population.

“The people of Artsakh have been subject to cruel and unimaginable circumstances for years, and after being forcibly expelled from their homes after undergoing ethnic cleansing are now facing the realities of starting over in an unfamiliar place,” said Noubar and Anna Afeyan, Trustees of the Afeyan Foundation. “It will take a large network of public and private support to ensure the people of Artsakh receive the resources and help needed to go from surviving to reviving and ultimately to thriving.”

The Afeyans continued, “We are inspired by the broad group of organizations and individuals working around-the-clock to provide support to the people of Artsakh and are humbled to play a role in ensuring this transition is positive for everyone impacted, including for Armenia as a whole.”

The Afeyan Foundation recently established a grant to UNICEF USA for UNICEF’s work in Armenia centered on the most vulnerable children and adolescents. The program will run for 18 months and focuses on improving access to mental health and psychosocial services, along with social inclusion opportunities, especially in areas where such services are limited. The aim of the program is to empower adolescents and their caregivers with the support systems and networks needed to cope with trauma and stress, reduce stigma, and promote mental wellbeing and social cohesion within their host communities.

In addition, the Afeyan Foundation has committed funding to the following Armenian organizations and programs to support several areas including meeting basic needs, providing medical and psychosocial care, and establishing longer-term educational opportunities.

- AIWA – Supporting the EmpowerPath Program to provide skill training, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurship support to Artsakhi women.
- AGBU – Programs include extending Camp Nairi; skill-building programs to advance employability for displaced Artsakh populations; winterizing humanitarian and emergency

support; and a CIVITTA study of the future of displaced Artsakh people in Armenia.

- American University of Armenia / US Embassy – English language education for displaced youth focused on Shirak region.
- Armenia Artsakh Fund – Shipping medications and humanitarian aid for Artsakhi people displaced in Armenia.
- Armenian Spiritual Revival Foundation – Programs include providing group and community mental health care services to the displaced Artsakhi population and organizing psycho-social training program for local specialists.
- AYP School – Scholarships for 10 students from Artsakh
- Children for Armenia Foundation (COAF) – Supporting Project Hope for Artsakh, which is focused on early childhood development, school integration, and access to COAF’s SMART center that includes art therapy courses and other resources tailored to refugee populations.
- Teach for Armenia – Implementation of its Education in Emergencies program to help students from Artsakh integrate into new environments. This includes training for educators, after-school activities, mental health, and psychosocial support, and supporting students academically.
- UWC Dilijan – Supporting Artsakhi students with 2-year scholarships for two eligible students, along with funding for 10 summer camp students.

Afeyan Initiatives for Armenia (AIFA), an initiative dedicated to building a more vibrant, resilient and prosperous Armenia will have oversight for the work supported by these grants.

The Wings of Tatev cable car has been nominated for World Travel Awards 2024 for the third time



The Wings of Tatev cable car, located in the Syunik region (Armenia), has once again been nominated for the prestigious international tourism award, World Travel Awards 2024, in the category of "World's Leading Cable Car Ride 2024". The project previously won in this category twice in 2021 and 2023. Now it is competing with cable cars from Bolivia, Brazil, Vietnam, Canada, New Zealand, the USA, and South Africa.

Wings of Tatev is the world's longest passenger cable car. It entered the Guinness Book of Records not only because of

its length - 5,752 meters - but also as the world's only engineering structure of this scale built in just 10 months. The ropeway project was realized by the Austrian-Swiss company Doppelmayr/Garaventa, a leader in the field of ropeway construction.

This year, the Wings of Tatev cable car will celebrate its 14th year of operation. Since its opening in 2010, it has been used by more than 1,300,000 people. Thanks to it, every fifth tourist in Armenia visits Tatev.

Mariia Butenko, Director of Wings of Tatev, urges people to vote, emphasizing

the impact winning would have: "Securing this prestigious award once again will not only bring global recognition to Wings of Tatev but also further elevate Armenia as a top-tier tourism destination. It will help us continue contributing to the growth of the local community, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the development of Armenia's tourism industry. I encourage everyone to vote and be part of this journey towards another achievement for Armenia."

To vote for the Wings of Tatev, follow these steps:

Visit the official award website by following the link.

Register with your email.

Confirm the received email.

Click on the "Start Voting" button.

Choose the "World" section.

Select line 63: "World's Leading Cable Car Ride 2024".

Vote for "Wings of Tatev, Armenia".

The voting deadline is October 20, 2024.

The Wings of Tatev project is part of "Tatev Revival program", initiated by Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend. The cable car is a non-profit project, and all its proceeds are directed towards the restoration of the Tatev Monastery and community development. The cable car is managed by Impulse Business Management.

Telegram will now provide some user data to authorities

The messaging app Telegram has said it will hand over users' IP addresses and phone numbers to authorities who have search warrants or other valid legal requests, the BBC reports.

The change to its terms of service and privacy policy "should discourage criminals," CEO Pavel Durov said in a Telegram post on Monday.

"While 99.999% of Telegram users have nothing to do with crime, the 0.001% involved in illicit activities create a bad image for the entire platform, putting the interests of our almost billion users at



risk," he continued.

The announcement marks a significant reversal for Mr Durov, the platform's Russian-born co-founder who was detained by French authorities last month at an airport just north of Paris.

Days later, prosecutors there charged him with enabling criminal activity on the platform. Allegations against him include complicity in spreading child abuse images and trafficking of drugs. He was also charged with failing to comply with law enforcement.

Mr Durov, who has denied the charges, lashed out at authorities shortly after his arrest, saying that holding him responsible for crimes committed by third parties on the platform was both "surprising" and "misguided."

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