

# Russia Assumes UN Security Council Presidency

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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**The**  **Moscow Times**

Russia took over as UN Security Council president for the month of March on Friday, and the top priority during its term will be resolving the situation in Afghanistan, the Foreign Ministry announced in a statement on its official website.

"On March 1, the Russian Federation will assume presidency of the UN Security Council. In accordance with the fundamental approaches of Russia, which are aimed at ensuring equality, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of nations, work will be based on the need to resolve conflicts by peaceful means, the capacity of collective interaction in strict compliance with the prerogatives of the UN Security Council and the strengthening of legal platforms in bilateral relations," the statement said.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is set to chair a Security Council meeting on March 19th at which a resolution to extend the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan will be adopted.

The ministry stressed that Afghanistan is at a critical stage in its development, requiring renewed efforts by the Afghan people and "consolidated support from the international community."

Among other issues on Russia's agenda is the situation in the Middle East, the situation in Kosovo and sanctions on Libya.

Russia is one of five permanent members of the council.

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