

# Russia Takes Helm at UN Security Council

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**The**  **Moscow Times**

Russia took over as United Nations 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 said.

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

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

*(MT)*

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