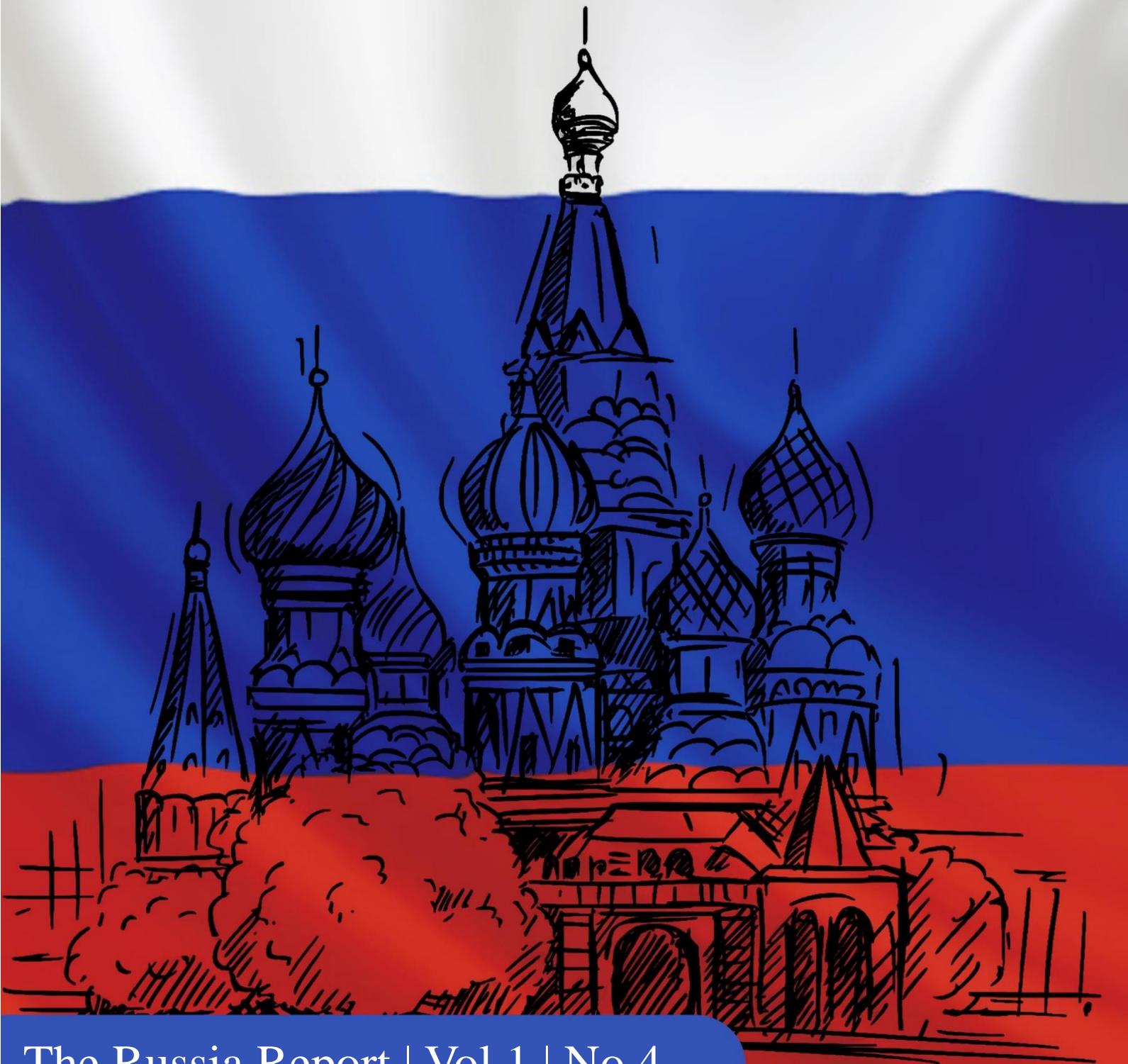


CLAWS Newsletter



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by Anusua Ganguly

From Moscow

Putin: Countries Eager to Cooperate with Russia on Space Collaboration

[TASS](#), April 16, 2025

Speaking to a group of students, President Vladimir Putin announced that many countries—including members of the BRICS group—are eager to collaborate with Russia in the space sector. His remarks highlight Russia’s continued efforts to play a leading role in global space exploration, despite shifting international dynamics.

Putin emphasised that cooperation with long-standing partners, such as the United States, remains active, particularly through joint work on the International Space Station (ISS). “The ISS has been established and is operational,” he noted. “There are various ideas about how it should conclude its work and what our next steps will be. However, our efforts will certainly continue, including with new partners.”

A key part of Russia’s future space strategy involves deepening ties with China, with whom Putin said the country shares “major plans—interesting, ambitious, and grandiose.”

In addition, Russia is strengthening space partnerships with BRICS countries, including India, Brazil, and South Africa. These relationships reflect a broader shift toward building a more diverse and multipolar space community.

Putin also reassured that Roscosmos remains in contact with NASA, underlining the importance of sustained international cooperation. “This cooperation does not stop. It cannot stop, because so many countries are interested,” he said. “We were and still are leaders in many areas. So, we are of interest to our partners.”

As global interest in space exploration grows, Russia is positioning itself as a key player in shaping the future of international space collaboration.

Russia Pushes for WTO Reform Talks

[TASS](#), April 16, 2025

Russia has urged the World Trade Organization (WTO) to begin formal discussions on much-needed reforms. Speaking after consultations with WTO General Council Chairman Saqer

Abdullah Almoqbel, Russia's WTO envoy Nikolay Platonov said it's time to address uncertainty in the global trade system and improve its effectiveness.

Platonov highlighted concerns over the growing use of unilateral trade restrictions, a sentiment echoed by the WTO chairman. A key issue is the WTO's non-functioning Appellate Body, which has been stalled since 2019 due to the U.S. blocking new appointments – leaving the system unable to resolve disputes.

Platonov stressed that reform is essential to keep the multilateral trade system afloat and ensure its future relevance.

Lavrov Confirms Moscow's Willingness to Work with US on Ukrainian Crisis

[TASS](#), [Reuters](#), April 17, 2025

In a recent phone conversation with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reiterated Moscow's commitment to working with the United States to address the underlying causes of the ongoing Ukrainian crisis.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Lavrov expressed Moscow's readiness to continue joint efforts with the US to resolve the issues that have contributed to the crisis in Ukraine.

During the conversation, Rubio shared details of his ongoing meetings with Ukrainian delegates in France. The US Secretary of State, currently in Paris, discussed his contacts with officials from Ukraine, France, and several other European nations, facilitated by US Special Envoy Steven Witkoff. These meetings were held in preparation for upcoming consultations between Washington and Moscow, including recent talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Witkoff in St. Petersburg.

The two officials agreed to continue their operative contacts, with plans for additional meetings between US, European, and Ukrainian representatives scheduled for the following week.

Telephone Conversation with President of Kazakhstan

[President of Russia](#), April 17, 2025

President Putin and President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, discussed on current issues pertaining to cooperation in the energy sector were discussed, reflecting the ongoing dialogue on strategic economic matters. Additionally, Vladimir Putin shared his assessments of the progress achieved in the dialogue between Russia and the United States. Both presidents emphasised the importance of the upcoming 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will naturally take part in the events to be held in Moscow to celebrate the occasion, underscoring the shared historical legacy of the participating nations.

President Putin to Meet with Iranian Foreign Minister in Moscow

[President of Russia](#), [TASS](#), April 17, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who is in Moscow on an official visit from April 17 – 18. The meeting was confirmed by Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov.

During his visit, Minister Araghchi is also expected to hold talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. According to Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, the discussions will focus on key international and regional issues, including the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program, as well as developments in Syria, the South Caucasus, and the Caspian region.

Araghchi has stated that he is carrying a message from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for President Putin. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed that the Iranian minister will have the opportunity to deliver this message during the meeting.

Russia Suspends Ban on Taliban Following Supreme Court Ruling

[TASS](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Khaama Press](#), April 17, 2025

The Russian Supreme Court has granted a request by the Prosecutor General's Office to suspend the ban on the Taliban movement's activities in Russia. The court session, held behind closed doors, concluded with the announcement that the suspension takes effect immediately.

This marks the first use of a new legal provision signed into law by President Vladimir Putin in December 2024, which allows for the temporary suspension of bans on organisations designated as terrorist. The law permits such a suspension if there is evidence that the group has ceased terrorist-related activities, including propaganda, support, or acts of violence against Russia's interests.

The Prosecutor General's Office stated that the decision was based on information from competent authorities indicating the Taliban had met these criteria. As required, a copy of the ruling will be sent to the Federal Security Service (FSB) to update the national list of terrorist organisations.

Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, noted that the new law enables Russia to engage in legal cooperation with the Taliban under certain conditions.

Kremlin Spokesman: Russia Seeks Resolution to Ukraine Conflict While Protecting National Interests

[TASS](#), April 18, 2025

Russia is committed to bringing an end to the ongoing Ukraine conflict while safeguarding its national priorities and remains open to continued dialogue, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov affirmed during a recent briefing.

“Russia seeks to achieve a resolution to this conflict and uphold its national interests, and it remains open to dialogue. We are actively engaged in this dialogue,” Peskov stated in response to a TASS question regarding US President Donald Trump's suggestion that Russia issue a response to a ceasefire proposal for Ukraine “this week.”

President Trump had proposed that both Russia and Ukraine halt strikes on energy infrastructure for a 30-day period, during a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 18. Putin expressed support for the idea and directed the Russian military to comply.

However, Ukraine continued to carry out attacks on energy infrastructure across 15 Russian regions between March 18 and April 16. These strikes affected regions such as Belgorod, Bryansk, Voronezh, Kursk, Lipetsk, Rostov, Saratov, and others, including Crimea and the

Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics. The attacks involved the use of drones, artillery, and HIMARS multiple launch rocket systems.

Peskov previously pointed out that Kiev's actions had effectively violated the proposed moratorium on energy infrastructure strikes following March 18.

Medvedev: Russia Could Resolve Ukraine Conflict Faster Without Western Involvement

[TASS](#), [X](#), April 18, 2025

Dmitry Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council, stated that Russia could resolve the Ukraine conflict more quickly if the U.S. and EU step back. Posting on X, Medvedev referenced recent U.S. comments about potentially pulling out of Ukraine negotiations, saying, "Then Russia will figure it out faster."

His remarks come after former U.S. President Donald Trump hinted at a possible U.S. withdrawal from Ukraine talks if progress stalls. Reports have also surfaced about a potential end to U.S. military aid to Kyiv, as American officials suggest shifting focus after years of support.

Putin Announces Easter Truce, Reviews Military Progress

[TASS](#), April 19, 2025; [The Moscow Times](#), April 21, 2025

President Vladimir Putin has declared a temporary ceasefire from 18:00 Moscow time on April 19 until 00:00 Moscow time on April 21 for Easter, urging Ukraine to follow Russia's example. The truce is being implemented for humanitarian reasons, though Putin emphasised that Russian troops must remain vigilant for potential violations or provocations. In his meeting with Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov, Putin was briefed on significant military developments, including the liberation of most of the Kursk Region from Ukrainian forces and the encirclement of enemy units in the Belgorod region. Gerasimov reported that Russian forces have cleared almost all of the Kursk region, with ongoing operations targeting small infiltrated Ukrainian groups in Belgorod. The situation on the contact line remains stable, with Russian forces advancing steadily. Putin reiterated Russia's openness to negotiations and a peaceful resolution to the conflict, welcoming the interest of the U.S., China, and other nations in pursuing a diplomatic solution.

Telephone Conversation with President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa

[President of Russia](#), April 21, 2025

President of Russia Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with President of the Republic of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa. The two leaders discussed issues related to the further development of bilateral cooperation, with a particular focus on trade, economic ties, and investment.

In light of South Africa's demonstrated willingness to contribute to efforts aimed at peacefully resolving the Ukraine crisis, Vladimir Putin outlined Russia's principled position on the need to address the root causes of the conflict and to ensure that Russia's security interests are respected. President Putin also extended his best wishes to President Ramaphosa and the people of South Africa ahead of Freedom Day, the country's national holiday observed on April 27.

Both presidents agreed to maintain contact at various levels moving forward.

Russia Reaffirms Efforts to Help Free Hostages in Gaza

[TASS](#), April 21, 2025

Russian Special Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and Africa, Mikhail Bogdanov, assured Israeli Ambassador Simona Halperin that Moscow remains committed to assisting in the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the meeting – initiated by the Israeli side – also included discussions on the broader situation in the Middle East and the ongoing development of Russian-Israeli relations. Russia reiterated its readiness to continue active diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the humanitarian crisis.

Moscow Welcomes US Stance on Ukraine's NATO Membership

[TASS](#), [Reuters](#), April 21, 2025

Russia has welcomed recent US statements ruling out Ukraine's potential membership in NATO, aligning with Moscow's position. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov expressed satisfaction with the US stance, which came after President Donald Trump stated that despite Ukrainian President Zelensky's aspirations, Ukraine's NATO membership would never happen.

According to Bloomberg, Washington has proposed settlement terms to its allies, including a refusal to discuss Ukraine's NATO membership and easing sanctions on Russia. The US draft also suggests that territories liberated by Russia should remain under Russian control. Discussions on these proposals are expected to continue this week in London.

The 2008 Bucharest summit initially indicated Ukraine's eventual NATO membership, but specifics have remained vague, and recent statements from NATO leaders have reiterated that Ukraine is "on an irreversible path" to joining, though no clear timeline has been provided.

Putin Ratifies Strategic Partnership Agreement with Iran

[Tehran Times](#), April 21, 2025; [TASS](#), April 22, 2025

President Vladimir Putin has signed into law the ratification of a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement with Iran, solidifying long-term cooperation across a broad range of sectors. The agreement, signed in January 2025 during Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Moscow, establishes Russia and Iran as strategic partners and outlines collaboration in areas including defense, counterterrorism, energy, finance, transport, agriculture, science, and technology. The document provides a legal framework aimed at deepening ties between the two countries well into the future.

Russia – Oman Talks

[President of Russia](#), April 22, 2025

President of Russia Vladimir Putin held official talks at the Kremlin with Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, who was in Russia on a state visit. Following the two leaders meeting, President Putin and Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said issued a joint statement summarising the outcomes of the visit. A comprehensive package of documents was also signed, reinforcing the strategic cooperation between the two nations.

Key agreements included an intergovernmental agreement on the mutual cancellation of visa requirements and a Protocol of Amendments to the 1994 Intergovernmental Treaty on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation. Several memoranda of understanding were signed in various areas, such as climate change and low-carbon development, transport and transit, combating money laundering and terrorism financing, and cooperation in the fishing industry.

Further agreements were signed on media and information exchange between Rossiya Segodnya, RT Arabic, and the Ministry of Information of Oman. Business and educational cooperation were also advanced through memoranda between the Roscongress Foundation and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and on the training of diplomatic personnel, scientific research, and education.

President Putin emphasised opportunities for further collaboration in trade, logistics, transport, mutual investment, agriculture, and energy. He also mentioned the upcoming Arab League–Russia Summit and extended an invitation for the Sultan to participate.

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said thanked President Putin for the invitation and the warm hospitality. He noted that he had previously visited Russia in a ministerial capacity and expressed his appreciation for the development of bilateral relations. Reflecting on the four decades of diplomatic ties, the Sultan spoke of the mutual interest in reaching a privileged level of cooperation. He confirmed Oman's strong interest in expanding economic and trade links and invited Russian companies to establish a presence in Oman. He also encouraged continued high-level exchanges between officials of both countries.

Condolences for Pahalgam Attack in Kashmir

[President of Russia](#), April 22, 2025

President of Russia Vladimir Putin extended his heartfelt condolences to President of India Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi following the tragic terrorist attack near the town of Pahalgam on April 22, 2025.

In his message, President Putin expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives, including citizens of various countries, and condemned the brutal act of violence, stating that such crimes can never be justified. He affirmed confidence that those responsible would be brought to justice.

President Putin also reiterated Russia's commitment to strengthening cooperation with India in combating all forms and manifestations of terrorism. He conveyed sincere sympathy and support to the families and friends of the victims and extended wishes for a swift recovery to all those injured in the attack.

Putin to Attend SPIEF 2025 in June

[TASS](#), April 22, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin will participate in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), scheduled for June 18 – 21, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Pankin confirmed. Held annually since 1997 and under presidential patronage since 2006, SPIEF is considered one of the world's leading business events.

Pankin emphasised that the forum serves as a global platform for economic dialogue, business development, and international cooperation. This year's agenda will focus on practical solutions to global economic challenges and the launch of innovative, large-scale projects. High-level delegations, including industry ministers, politicians, business leaders, and experts from around the world, are expected to attend.

Russia Bans 21 UK Lawmakers Amid Rising Tensions Over Ukraine, Sanctions

[TASS](#), [Politico](#), April 23, 2025

In a sharp response to what it calls Britain's "confrontational policies," Russia's Foreign Ministry has announced a ban on 21 members of the UK Parliament from entering the country. The move comes amid ongoing disputes over the war in Ukraine and broader geopolitical friction between Moscow and London.

The decision, outlined in a statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry, cited the UK's "Russophobic agenda," efforts to "demonize" Russia on the global stage, and continued military support to Ukraine as key reasons for the sanctions.

"These lawmakers have helped fabricate anti-Russian narratives and advocated for hostile actions against our country, including the public push for the seizure of Russian state assets frozen in Western jurisdictions," the statement said.

Russia labeled these actions part of a broader UK strategy aimed at weakening Russian influence and statehood. The ministry added that this is not the end of its measures: "Work to expand the Russian stop list will be continued."

Moscow also denounced what it called "hysterical" and "unsubstantiated" rhetoric from British officials, asserting that London has made an open choice in favor of confrontation, not dialogue.

The announcement marks the latest in a growing tit-for-tat sanctions war between Russia and Western nations, especially in the wake of intensified UK support for Ukraine's military efforts and economic pressure campaigns against Moscow.

Kremlin: Peace Possible if Ukraine Withdraws from Donbass and Novorossiya

[TASS](#), April 23, 2025

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has stated that a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine would be possible only if Ukrainian forces withdraw from the Russian-claimed territories of Donbass and Novorossiya. In an interview with France's *Le Point*, Peskov emphasised that these regions are legally enshrined in Russia's Constitution and therefore considered by Moscow to be inseparable parts of the Russian Federation.

"If Ukraine withdraws its troops from these four regions, then yes [peace is possible]," Peskov told the French magazine when asked about the conditions for ending the war.

He stressed that although these regions were incorporated into Russia following referendums held in 2022, parts of the territory remain under Ukrainian control. "From our point of view, this is a de jure and de facto situation," he said.

The comments reiterate Moscow's firm stance that territorial concessions from Ukraine are a non-negotiable precondition for peace — a position that Kyiv and its Western allies continue to reject as illegitimate.

Kremlin: Russia Has No Territorial Claims on Baltic States

[TASS](#), April 23, 2025

In an interview with French magazine *Le Point*, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that Russia holds no territorial claims against the Baltic states, despite ongoing tensions over the treatment of Russian-speaking minorities in the region.

"Russia has no problems with the Baltic states and no territorial claims against them," Peskov emphasised. He criticised what he described as the systematic trampling of Russian speakers' rights, particularly regarding the use of the Russian language, but said this did not equate to any territorial ambition. "Brussels, by the way, does not pay the slightest attention to this," he added.

Peskov also drew a sharp contrast with Ukraine, noting that, unlike in the Baltic states, “there is no civil war... during which a regular army would exterminate Russians only because of their nationality.”

The statement appears aimed at dispelling Western fears of potential Russian aggression in the Baltics, which have increased since the start of the conflict in Ukraine.

Kremlin: Zelensky's Resignation Not a Condition for Peace Talks

[TASS](#), April 23, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Zelensky’s resignation is not among Russia’s demands for ending the conflict in Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov clarified in an interview with Le Point.

“This is not one of our demands,” Peskov said when asked directly whether Russia required Zelensky to step down as part of any peace settlement. However, he cautioned that even if a peace deal were signed with Zelensky, its legal legitimacy might be questioned later within Ukraine.

According to Peskov, doubts about Zelensky’s authority stem from the current state of martial law and certain articles of the Ukrainian constitution, implying that his continued presidency could face constitutional scrutiny if not addressed.

The comments appear to signal that Moscow is more focused on concrete conditions for ending the war—such as troop withdrawals and recognition of territory – than on political changes within Ukraine's leadership.

Meeting with U.S. President’s Special Envoy Steve Witkoff

[President of Russia](#), [TASS](#), April 25, 2025

President of Russia Vladimir Putin held a meeting in the Kremlin with Steve Witkoff, Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America.

The discussions focused on matters of mutual interest, including economic cooperation and investment initiatives. Participating in the meeting from the Russian side were Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov and Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund and

Special Presidential Representative for Investment and Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries.

Putin Confirms Russia's Readiness for Unconditional Talks with Ukraine

[TASS](#), [The Moscow Times](#), April 26, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed Moscow's openness to resuming negotiations with Ukraine without any preconditions, as confirmed during his meeting with US Special Envoy Steven Witkoff. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov conveyed this in response to a question from the press.

“During his conversation with Trump’s envoy Witkoff, President Putin reiterated that Russia is ready to restart the negotiation process with Ukraine, without any preconditions,” Peskov stated. He also emphasised that this stance had been made clear by Putin multiple times in the past.

This meeting marked the fourth such conversation between President Putin and Witkoff since the beginning of the year. Kremlin Aide Yury Ushakov described the three-hour discussion as “constructive and quite useful,” further underlining the ongoing diplomatic engagement between Russia and the United States concerning the Ukrainian conflict.

Lavrov Emphasises Russia’s Key Demands for Ukraine Settlement

[TASS](#), April 28, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov outlined Moscow’s key demands for any resolution to the Ukraine crisis in a recent interview with the Brazilian newspaper O Globo. He emphasised that the international recognition of Crimea, Sevastopol, the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR), the Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR), and the regions of Kherson and Zaporozhye as part of Russia is non-negotiable for a settlement.

Lavrov made it clear that Russia’s position on the settlement is well-established, with two primary “pillars” guiding the terms. The first pillar involves ensuring that Ukraine remains non-aligned, with no NATO membership, and reaffirms its neutral status in line with the 1990 Declaration on Ukraine’s State Sovereignty. The second pillar addresses the legacy of the “neo-Nazi regime” in Kiev, which Moscow insists must be eradicated. This includes the

“de-Nazification” of Ukraine, the protection of Russian culture and traditions, and the restoration of Russian language rights.

Lavrov also reiterated Russia’s demands for the demilitarisation of Ukraine, the lifting of Western sanctions, the return of frozen Russian assets, and the cancellation of legal actions and arrest warrants. Furthermore, Russia insists on obtaining reliable security guarantees to shield itself from any future NATO or EU threats along its western borders.

In his statement, Lavrov made it clear that these demands are essential to meeting Russia’s security interests and resolving the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Putin Declares 3-Day Ceasefire in Ukraine Amid Calls for Lasting Peace

[BBC](#), [The Moscow Times](#), 28 April 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin has announced a temporary ceasefire in Ukraine from May 8 to 11, aligning with Russia’s Victory Day celebrations. The Kremlin says the pause is based on “humanitarian considerations” and urged Ukraine to reciprocate—warning of a strong response to any violations.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha questioned the delay, calling for an immediate 30-day ceasefire instead. “If Russia truly wants peace, why wait?” he said.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who is attempting to mediate peace, is pushing for a permanent truce. The White House said Trump is frustrated with both sides and wants to “stop the killing, stop the bloodshed.”

This comes during a critical week in peace negotiations. Previous ceasefires have failed, and Ukraine remains open to a longer, durable agreement.

Putin to Meet Lukashenko at Forum in Volgograd

[TASS](#), [The Moscow Times](#), April 29, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin is heading to Volgograd for the Union State forum, “Great Heritage - Shared Future,” where he will hold a scheduled meeting with his Belarusian counterpart, Alexander Lukashenko. The meeting will address key issues related to the development of relations between Russia and Belarus, according to the Kremlin press service.

The two leaders, who maintain a close working relationship, have met regularly. Their most recent in-person meeting took place in Moscow in March 2024, during which they signed agreements, including one granting citizens of both countries the right to participate in local elections if they reside permanently in either country. They also discussed several matters regarding their bilateral integration.

In addition, the last phone call between the two presidents took place on April 7, focused on cooperation between the special services of both countries in combating terrorism. The Kremlin notes that while their communications are frequent, not all are publicly disclosed.

The upcoming discussions between Putin and Lukashenko at the forum will likely build on these ongoing dialogues and agreements, reinforcing their alliance.

Russia Reiterates Readiness for Direct Talks with Ukraine, Awaits Kyiv's Response

[Reuters](#), April 29, 2025; [TASS](#), April 30, 2025

The Kremlin has reaffirmed Russia's willingness to engage in direct negotiations with Ukraine without preconditions, according to Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov. Speaking at an educational forum hosted by the Knowledge society, Peskov stated that President Vladimir Putin remains open to talks, but Kyiv has yet to indicate whether it is prepared to enter discussions.

“President Putin renewed his readiness for direct negotiations with the Ukrainians without any initial conditions,” Peskov told reporters. “This readiness is still active, still valid.”

Despite this, no official response has been made by Ukrainian authorities. Peskov criticised Ukraine for setting preconditions, such as a ceasefire, which he claimed are not aligned with Moscow's approach.

“They are trying to put forward preconditions to any process like a ceasefire,” he said. “This contradicts the position of President Putin.”

The possibility of negotiations remains uncertain as the conflict continues with no clear diplomatic breakthrough in sight.

Russia and the World

Russian Embassy Opens in Dominican Republic to Boost Bilateral Ties

[TASS, Dominican Today](#), April 16, 2025

On April 14, Russian Ambassador Alexey Seredin officially presented his credentials to Dominican Foreign Minister Roberto Alvarez, marking the formal opening of the Russian Embassy in the Dominican Republic.

Speaking to TASS, Ambassador Seredin emphasised that the embassy's establishment reflects the high level of relations between the two countries and aims to strengthen diplomatic, economic, and cultural cooperation. Initially, the embassy will be staffed by three diplomats, focusing on consular support for over 2,000 Russian nationals residing in the Dominican Republic.

Seredin highlighted the long-standing friendship between Russia and the Dominican Republic, founded on mutual respect. The two nations recently celebrated 80 years of diplomatic relations on March 8.

President Vladimir Putin appointed Alexey Seredin as Ambassador on March 11, succeeding Sergey Melik-Bagdasarov, who continues his duties as Ambassador to Venezuela and Haiti.

Russia Warns EU Trio May Use IAEA Report to Discredit Iran

[TASS, Russia-Islamic World Group of Strategic Vision](#), April 16, 2025

Russia's Permanent Representative to international organisations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, warned that France, Germany, and the UK may attempt to use an upcoming IAEA report to undermine Iran's international standing and potentially trigger the return of UN sanctions.

Ulyanov noted that IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's visit to Tehran on April 16–17 comes ahead of a report requested by the IAEA Board of Governors, which Western European countries may use to accuse Iran of non-compliance with its nuclear safeguards. Such a move could lead to a referral of the matter to the UN Security Council and invoke the “snapback” sanctions mechanism under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

According to the Tehran Times, France, Germany, and the UK are reportedly frustrated over being excluded from recent Iran–US talks held in Oman on April 12 and may seek to derail the process. A second round of discussions between Tehran and Washington is scheduled for April 19.

Medvedev Warns of Consequences if European Troops Deployed to Ukraine

[TASS](#), [Newsweek](#), April 17, 2025

Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev issued a stark warning on social media, stating that any European troops deployed to Ukraine would “return in coffins.” His remarks followed reports that senior Ukrainian officials, including Andrey Yermak, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, and Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Sibiga, had arrived in Paris for high-level talks with U.S. and European officials.

According to Medvedev, the Ukrainian delegation is in Paris to coordinate with the UK, Germany, and France regarding potential military involvement under the so-called “coalition of the willing.” He sharply criticised the initiative, characterising it as a plan with deadly consequences for European forces.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff are scheduled to meet with their European counterparts in Paris on April 17–18. These talks follow a March 27 summit in Paris, where representatives from around 30 nations discussed security guarantees for Ukraine, including the controversial idea of deploying foreign troops. The United States did not participate in that summit.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has previously stated that the presence of NATO troops in any form on Ukrainian territory would be considered a direct threat to Russia and would not be tolerated by Moscow.

Russian Foreign Minister to Visit Uzbekistan on April 22–23

[TASS](#), April 17, 2025; [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation](#), April 22, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will pay an official visit to Uzbekistan on April 22–23, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced. During the visit to Tashkent, Lavrov is

scheduled to meet with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and hold substantive talks with his Uzbek counterpart, Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov.

The agenda will include preparations for the upcoming 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, as well as the further development of the Russia–Uzbekistan strategic partnership. Discussions will build on agreements made during President Vladimir Putin’s state visit to Uzbekistan in May 2024.

Talks will also cover regional security, cooperation within the CIS, SCO, and Russia–Central Asia formats, and Eurasian integration—considering Uzbekistan’s observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Lavrov is also expected to visit the Victory Park memorial complex in Tashkent during his stay.

Russia and Qatar Sign Key Agreements Following Kremlin Talks

[TASS](#), April 17, 2025; [Middle East Monitor](#), April 23, 2025

Following high-level talks in the Kremlin, Russia and Qatar signed a series of bilateral documents aimed at deepening economic and sectoral cooperation. The signing ceremony was attended by President Vladimir Putin and Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

A key outcome was the agreement to expand the joint investment platform between the two nations to a total of approximately €2 billion, with each side contributing €1 billion.

Additional agreements included a memorandum of understanding on the development of public finance management systems, cooperation in healthcare, medical education and research, and a memorandum between the Sports Ministries to enhance collaboration in the field of sports.

Russian MFA: EU Sees South Caucasus as Frontline in Hybrid Warfare

[TASS](#), April 17, 2025

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova stated that the European Union views the South Caucasus as a new front in its global hybrid war, accusing EU monitoring missions—particularly in Armenia—of destabilising the region rather than fostering peace.

Speaking at a briefing, Zakharova criticised the potential expansion of the EU mission in Armenia, arguing that European observers create “new dividing lines” and “centers of tension.” She singled out France for attempting to draw Armenia into the Western sphere, undermining historic Russian-Armenian ties.

Zakharova also warned that, although presented as civilian, many EU countries involved in the mission are NATO members, and the initiative ultimately serves NATO’s strategic interests rather than those of Armenia or regional stability.

Lavrov: Russia Ready to Play Any Useful Role for Iran in Its Agreements with US

TASS, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, April 18, 2025

Russia has reaffirmed its readiness to assist and play any role that would be beneficial for Iran in its negotiations with the United States, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated following talks with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi in Moscow.

“We are ready to help, to mediate, to play any role that will be valuable from Iran’s point of view and that will be acceptable to the United States,” Lavrov said.

Lavrov also emphasised that Russia firmly believes the only viable path forward is an agreement focused exclusively on nuclear issues. He underscored that Iran is committed to pursuing an agreement within the framework of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

“This is a key principle that must be acknowledged by those attempting to complicate the negotiations with unrelated issues, thereby creating a very dangerous situation,” Lavrov added.

Indirect talks between Iran and the US were held in Muscat on April 12, with Omani mediation. These talks marked the first high-level engagement between officials from both countries since 2022, and aimed to address the long-standing tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear program. The Iranian delegation, headed by Araghchi, and the US side, led by special presidential envoy Steve Witkoff, agreed to continue discussions.

The next round of negotiations is scheduled for April 19 in Rome, according to US State Department Spokeswoman Tammy Bruce.

Russian Diplomat Warns NATO on Sending Troops to Ukraine

[TASS](#), April 18, 2025

Vladislav Maslennikov, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's European Problems Department, issued a stern warning to NATO countries against sending military troops to Ukraine. Speaking on Rossiya-24, he stated that military planning is already underway by European leaders, signaling potential involvement in the conflict.

Maslennikov emphasised that any NATO military presence in Ukraine would be “categorically unacceptable” and would result in “negative consequences” for the countries involved. He also highlighted the escalating role of NATO, specifically Germany's potential involvement with Taurus missiles, warning that such actions would be viewed as direct support for the Ukrainian government.

Russia, Oman Strengthen Ties with Landmark Agreements

[TASS](#), [The Moscow Times](#), April 22, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said of Oman to Moscow, marking the first-ever meeting between the two nations' heads of state. Putin announced that a major package of agreements has been prepared to deepen bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

The meeting coincides with the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and Oman. Putin praised the Sultan's long-standing engagement with Russia, noting his role in establishing diplomatic ties in 1985. Following the talks, the two sides are expected to sign 10 key agreements, including a mutual visa waiver for ordinary passport holders and a protocol establishing a joint trade and economic commission

Switzerland Sanctions Eight Russian Media Outlets

[TASS](#), [Bloomberg](#), April 22, 2025

Switzerland has imposed sanctions on eight Russian media outlets, aligning with the European Union's 16th sanctions package introduced in February. According to the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the restrictions will take effect on April 23.

Among the targeted outlets are Lenta.ru, Zvezda TV, Krasnaya Zvezda, News Front, SouthFront, RuBaltic.ru, and the Strategic Culture Foundation. The move reflects a broader

effort by Western countries to curb what they describe as Russian disinformation campaigns tied to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Russia, Oman to Establish Intergovernmental Trade Commission

[Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, TASS](#), April 22, 2025

Russia and Oman have signed an agreement to create a joint intergovernmental commission focused on trade, economic, and technical cooperation. The protocol, signed following talks at the Kremlin and attended by both nations' leaders, amends a previous bilateral agreement.

The new commission will work to enhance economic ties, identify new areas of collaboration, support private sector and SME partnerships, and facilitate the exchange of investment-related information. Meetings will be held every two years, alternating between Russia and Oman.

Russia and Algeria Sign Chamber of Commerce Cooperation Agreement

[Al 24 News, TASS](#), April 22, 2025

The Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Russia and Algeria have signed a cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening bilateral business ties. The signing took place in Algiers, as part of a broader Russian business mission led by Sergey Katyrin, head of the Russian CCI.

The agreement emphasises collaboration in areas such as SME support, information exchange, joint exhibitions, regional cooperation, and the promotion of arbitration partnerships. Special focus is placed on fostering direct connections between companies, organising business missions, and supporting national business councils as key economic platforms.

The signing coincides with the Russian-Algerian Business Forum, which runs until April 24 and includes B2B talks, plenary sessions, and further agreement signings. Over 20 Russian companies from various sectors, including IT, construction, energy, and pharmaceuticals, are participating in the mission.

Russia-Central Asia Summit to Take Place in October

[TASS](#), [Anadolu Ajansi](#), April 23, 2025

The Russia-Central Asia summit is scheduled for October 2025 and will be held on the sidelines of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced following his visit to Uzbekistan.

Lavrov highlighted that the summit would build upon recent meetings, including the April 11 foreign ministers' discussions in Alma-Ata. The goal of the summit is to further strengthen ties within CIS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the Central Asia Five plus Russia framework.

This follows the success of the first Russia-Central Asia summit held in October 2022 in Astana.

Lavrov Announces Major Gas Supply Boost to Uzbekistan

[TASS](#), [UZ Daily](#), April 23, 2025; [KUN.UZ](#), April 24, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced that a series of new infrastructure projects will enable Russia to double its gas supplies to Uzbekistan.

At a press conference following his visit to Uzbekistan, Lavrov highlighted that Russian investments are playing a major role in the country's economic growth, noting that Russian capital is among the largest foreign investments in Uzbekistan.

“Cooperation in the gas sphere is growing, with a whole range of infrastructural projects being implemented, which will make it possible to double gas supplies from the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan,” Lavrov stated.

He also pointed out that Russia is a key player in Uzbekistan's foreign trade, holding about 18% of its total foreign trade turnover. Lavrov emphasised that this is far from the limit, indicating further potential for growth in bilateral trade.

Shoigu: China Urges Addressing Root Causes of Ukraine Conflict

[TASS](#), April 24, 2025

China advocates for resolving the underlying causes of the Ukrainian conflict and calls for a sustainable, long-term peace, Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu said in an interview with TASS.

“In contrast to the West’s aggressive rhetoric, Beijing calls for ending the escalation and launching efforts to find solutions aimed at securing long-term and sustainable peace,” Shoigu stated. He praised China’s independent stance and its emphasis on tackling the core issues behind the conflict, rather than just its symptoms.

Shoigu also expressed gratitude to China for its diplomatic engagement, describing it as a responsible actor within the global community. He referenced recent joint efforts by China and Brazil, including a proposal for an international peace conference that ensures equal representation and considers all sides' peace plans.

Russia has publicly supported the initiative, with Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov affirming Moscow’s openness to China-Brazil-led diplomacy aimed at resolving the crisis.

Russia Delivers Humanitarian Food Aid to Laos, Reaffirms Commitment to Bilateral Development

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, TASS, April 24, 2025](#)

Russia has delivered 149 tons of humanitarian food aid to Laos, valued at \$2 million, in cooperation with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), the Russian Embassy in Vientiane announced.

At the official handover ceremony, Russian Ambassador Vladimir Kalinin highlighted Russia’s continued support for humanitarian and development projects in Laos. These include the reconstruction of the Mittaphab Russian-Lao Friendship Hospital and the construction of a Russian-Lao school in the capital, Vientiane. Kalinin reaffirmed Russia’s commitment to long-term charitable and educational cooperation with the Lao PDR.

The Lao Minister of Education and Sports, Phut Simmalavong, expressed gratitude for the aid, which will support school nutrition programs across remote provinces including Luang Namtha, Luang Prabang, and Phongsali, benefitting over 50,000 students. He called the initiative a meaningful gesture in celebration of the 65th anniversary of Russia-Laos diplomatic ties, and praised Moscow as a “long-standing and reliable partner.”

The donation is part of Russia's broader regional outreach, combining humanitarian assistance with strategic partnerships in Southeast Asia.

Nord Stream 2 Sanctions May Be Bargaining Chip in US-Russia Talks, Expert Says

[TASS](#), April 24, 2025

The idea of lifting US sanctions on Nord Stream 2 may resurface as part of a broader geopolitical deal between Washington and Moscow, despite being commercially illogical for the United States, says Alexey Belogoryev of the Institute of Energy and Finance.

While Russian gas via Nord Stream 2 could sharply reduce prices on Europe's spot market—posing a threat to US LNG interests—Belogoryev suggests the Trump administration might use it as a negotiation tool. “It's unlikely, but not off the table,” he said, noting political opposition from the EU and Germany remains a major barrier.

Sanctions were first introduced under Trump, who strongly promoted US energy exports. Although the White House has denied recent reports of a shift, the pipeline's future is again drawing attention amid broader Russia-US discussions.

The pipeline was completed in 2021 but damaged in 2022 in what Russia calls an act of international terrorism. Only one of its four lines remains intact.

Russia, Iran Discuss New Overland Gas Corridors

[TASS](#), April 24, 2025; [Mehr News Agency](#), April 25, 2025

Russia and Iran are prepared to advance plans for new overland gas corridors connecting the two countries, according to a statement from the Russian Cabinet following talks between Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak and Iranian Petroleum Minister Mohsen Paknejad.

Novak also reaffirmed Moscow's support for expanding economic ties between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Both sides praised their cooperation under OPEC+ and the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, signaling continued alignment on global energy strategy.

Russian, Tajik Prime Ministers to Discuss Strategic Cooperation

[TASS](#), [Turkic World](#), April 25, 2025

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin will meet with Tajik Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda to deepen bilateral cooperation across a broad range of sectors. Talks will focus on trade, investment, culture, education, and major joint projects in energy, agriculture, and industry, according to the Russian government.

Russia remains Tajikistan's top economic partner and investor, with over 70 Russian regions maintaining ties with Tajikistan's local entities. The Sangtuda-1 hydropower plant continues to be a flagship of energy collaboration. The meeting also supports Tajikistan's 2025 chairmanship of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), with Russia pledging support for Dushanbe's leadership agenda.

New Russia-US Arms Race Underway, Says Russian Academy of Sciences Director

[TASS](#), April 25, 2025

Fyodor Voytolovsky, Director of the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations at the Russian Academy of Sciences, warned that a new arms race between Russia and the United States is already underway. He made this statement during a plenary session of the Science and Expert Council of the Russian Security Council.

Voytolovsky highlighted the rising global military spending as evidence of this intensifying arms race. He pointed out that the United States is actively working to maintain global military dominance, focusing on two key goals outlined in its strategic planning documents: containing Russia and deterring China.

Voytolovsky also underscored Russia's continued prominence in nuclear capabilities, stating that Russia remains either the second or an equal first in terms of nuclear power. He described Russia as a crucial guarantor of global peace and stability, noting its significant technological lead over the United States, particularly in the development of both strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons.

Despite the challenging state of US-Russia relations, Voytolovsky emphasised that nuclear weapons remain a critical safeguard for national security, strategic stability, and the ability to respond to potential aggression against Russia.

Lavrov Arrives in Brazil for BRICS Ministerial Meeting

[TASS](#), April 27, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has arrived in Brazil to attend the BRICS ministerial meeting scheduled for April 28 and 29. His plane landed at Rio de Janeiro airport, marking the beginning of his participation in this key diplomatic event.

According to Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, the upcoming meeting will focus on pressing issues in the international arena, including efforts to resolve global crises and conflicts. Additionally, the BRICS diplomats are expected to discuss ways to enhance global governance, particularly in raising the influence of the countries representing the global majority.

Brazil assumed the BRICS presidency from Russia on January 1, 2025, and will lead the organisation's efforts for the year.

Lavrov Meets Brazilian Counterpart Ahead of BRICS Ministerial Meeting

[TASS](#), April 27, 2025; [TV BRICS](#), April 28, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has met with his Brazilian counterpart, Mauro Vieira, in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting comes as Lavrov prepares to take part in the BRICS ministerial meeting scheduled for April 28 and 29.

The Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova confirmed the meeting, sharing a joint photo of the two diplomats on her Telegram channel. Lavrov arrived in Brazil earlier today, marking the beginning of his diplomatic engagements ahead of the BRICS summit.

The BRICS ministerial meeting will address key international issues, including global governance reforms and conflict resolution, with a focus on strengthening the role of the countries of the global majority.

Lavrov and Rubio Discuss Russia-US Relations in Phone Call

[TASS](#), April 27, 2025; [The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation](#), April 28, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held a phone conversation, where they exchanged views on key aspects of Russia-US political dialogue, which has notably intensified in recent weeks. The two diplomats agreed on the importance of maintaining communication at all levels.

The conversation follows a series of meetings between high-level officials from both countries, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and US Special Presidential Envoy Steve Witkoff, who met last Friday for their fourth discussion this year. Kremlin Aide Yury Ushakov described their conversation as "constructive and quite useful," lasting for three hours.

The ongoing dialogues indicate a mutual interest in fostering continued engagement between Russia and the US despite the complexities in their relations.

Russia Joins Efforts to Extinguish Fire at Iranian Shahid Rajaei Port

[TASS](#), April 28, 2025; [Iran Front Page](#), April 29, 2025

Russia's Ministry of Emergencies has sent specialists to Iran to assist in extinguishing the fire at the Shahid Rajaei port, following a massive explosion that occurred on April 26. The Russian Embassy in Tehran reported that the emergency personnel quickly coordinated with their Iranian counterparts, split into two groups, and began their work on-site.

The Russian team arrived aboard two Be-200 amphibious aircraft and one Il-76TD transport aircraft. They immediately held a coordination meeting with Iranian authorities to assess the situation and map out their operations.

The blast, which occurred at the port in Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf, tragically resulted in 28 fatalities and nearly 1,400 injuries. Russian President Vladimir Putin had earlier instructed the Emergencies Ministry to send assistance to help manage the situation.

The collaboration between the Russian and Iranian emergency teams underscores the continued humanitarian cooperation between the two countries in crisis situations.

Lavrov Visits Dominican Republic to Mark 80 Years of Diplomatic Relations, Discuss Trade and Tourism

[TASS](#), [TASS](#), April 30, 2025; [Dominican Today](#), April 25, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov arrived in the Dominican Republic on Tuesday, marking his first official visit to the Caribbean nation as part of efforts to deepen bilateral relations. The visit coincides with the 80th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Russia and the Dominican Republic.

Lavrov, who arrived from Brazil after attending a BRICS foreign ministers meeting, is scheduled to meet with Dominican President Luis Abinader and Foreign Minister Roberto Alvarez. The talks will focus on strengthening cooperation in trade, tourism, investment, and cultural exchange.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova noted that discussions will also cover global and regional issues, with an emphasis on enhancing legal frameworks and political dialogue between the two countries.

This visit follows the recent opening of the Russian embassy in the Dominican Republic earlier this month and the appointment of Alexey Seredin as Moscow's new ambassador. Lavrov last engaged directly with Dominican leadership in 2018 and held a call with Foreign Minister Alvarez in 2021.

The renewed diplomatic push underscores Russia's interest in expanding its presence and partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean.

About the Author

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