

On September 4, the Foreign Ministry will host the second round of the Moscow format consultations on Afghanistan.

The Moscow format was introduced in 2017 on the basis of the six-party mechanism for consultations between special representatives from Russia, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Iran and India.

The first round of consultations that took place on April 14, 2017 was attended by deputy foreign ministers and special representatives of 11 partner countries who are interested in achieving a settlement in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. These countries include Russia, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The representatives of the United States who were invited to take part in the meeting declined, saying that the new US administration lacked an Afghanistan strategy at the time.

The Moscow format meeting's main objective is to facilitate the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan and secure peace in that country as soon as possible.

The upcoming meeting in Moscow will be the second in this format. Unlike the previous round, it will be co-chaired by both Russia and Afghanistan. As was the case with the first meeting, invitations were sent to 12 countries, the US included. The leadership of the Taliban's political office in Doha was also invited to take part in the meeting.

The aim of the upcoming meeting is to help narrow the gaps in the approaches taken by the Afghan government and the Taliban to launching a direct intra-Afghan dialogue.

The Foreign Ministry plans to issue a statement on the outcome of the meeting.