



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement in response to the address by the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1451st meeting of the Permanent Council,
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Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine aligned itself with the statement delivered under this agenda item by the Delegation of the European Union. At the same time, I would also like to add some remarks in the national capacity.

The Delegation of Ukraine welcomes the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions to the Permanent Council and thanks them for their address.

The GID remains a key international mechanism for finding solution to the 2008 russian-Georgian conflict as well as for solving the problems of conflict affected population on the ground. Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate Ukraine's full support to the activities of the GID Co-Chairs.

Since the very establishment of this mechanism a substantial progress within the relevant efforts is made impossible by the destructive position of the russian federation, which is a party to this conflict.

russian illegal activities aimed at further militarization and de-facto annexation of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali severely undermine the politico-diplomatic efforts.

russia continues obstructing the negotiation process by the intentional unwillingness to implement its obligations under the 2008 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement and withdraw its armed formations and occupation administrations from the temporarily occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali.

For years the conflict affected population in Georgia remains deprived of the potential benefits from the GID activities due to the ongoing refusal by russia and its proxies to discuss issues related to internally displaced persons and refugees.

The humanitarian situation in the russia-occupied territories of Georgia is gradually deteriorating, while the occupant continues to actively pursue the practice of illegal detentions and restrictions of freedom of movement along and across the occupation line.

There is not much to comment on this, as the whole international community is witnessing daily a real moscow's approach to human suffering caused by the russian barbaric aggressive war against Ukraine.

In view of this, it is highly important to restore the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, which remains suspended since 2018 as soon as

possible and without any preconditions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Full and unconditional de-occupation of Georgian territories by Russia is the only and inevitable way to reach progress in the conflict resolution, ensure human rights and freedoms and provide for stability and prosperity in the region.

Reestablishment of the meaningful OSCE's presence in Georgia, capable to operate within the internationally recognized Georgian territory without any restrictions, could significantly contribute to reducing tensions on the ground and supporting affected population.

Having unilaterally reaffirmed the non-use of force commitments, Georgia has demonstrated its political will to solve the conflict in a peaceful politico-diplomatic way. So, it's about Russia, as a party to the conflict, to reciprocate Georgia's constructive approach and contribute to creating necessary preconditions for establishing the international security arrangements on the ground.

At the same time, we are all aware of the real nature of any commitments, taken by the Russian regime, whose reign is based on total negligence to the international law and core values of the civilized world.

So, to reach these goals Moscow should experience more and more pressure from the international community, including through the targeted economic and political sanctions. Only in this way we can make it cease the illegal occupation of the territory of sovereign states and comply with all international commitments, taken by Russia.

In a joint effort we have also to ensure the inevitable accountability of Moscow for the crime of aggression against independent states, numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity as well as violations of international humanitarian law.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Ukraine's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.