

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF GENEVA DISCUSSIONS

14.10.2010

The participants of the Geneva International Discussions completed today their thirteenth session and agreed to hold the next round in the same format on 16 December 2010.

In Working Group I, dealing with security and stability, the participants reviewed developments on the ground since the last round. The overall situation was assessed as relatively calm, but fragile. The importance of fully functioning Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs) was acknowledged by the participants.

The report on monitoring of investigations into cases of missing persons by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, received particular attention. The co-Chairs noted that this report completes a substantial work which started one year ago. The need for all involved participants to comply with all its recommendations was emphasized by the co-Chairs, as well as the need to pursue the work on detained persons.

The co-Chairs registered the agreement on the resumption of the Ergneti / Dvani IPRM by the end of the month.

The co-Chairs welcomed today's announcement in the session of the imminent removal of the Russian checkpoint in Perevi as a positive development on the ground.

The participants continued discussing the issue of non-use of force and international security arrangements by focusing on the sequential approach tabled by the co-Chairs during the previous round. Further consultations on this issue will be pursued ahead of the next round.

Following an information session on Voluntary Exchange of Information and Facilitation of Communication, held on 13 October, the participants also discussed possible confidence-building measures, in the first instance by realizing the full potential of the IPRMs.

The co-Chairs noted with regret the decision of some participants not to attend the Working Group II session dealing with humanitarian issues. Full contribution by all participants and resumption of usual format of Working Group II is essential for confidence building and resolution of immediate humanitarian problems.

In Working Group II, participants took part on 13 October in an information session on the technical aspects of property restitution and return, in which experience gained in other regions was shared by the invited expert. The co-Moderators will continue to explore how field experience and lessons learned can be used to further the understanding of the issues at stake and the concrete objectives of Working Group II.

Participants in Working Group II heard a review of the humanitarian situation on the ground, in which the needs of the affected populations in the run-up to the winter were emphasized. As part of this review, an initiative was welcomed to launch a series of water projects proposed by the OSCE and financed by the European Union.

The co-Moderators introduced their intentions regarding further work on the issues relating to displaced populations. They proposed to follow a gradual approach that would include establishing the factual situation of the affected populations, with the aim of starting as soon as possible concrete humanitarian activities to address the needs of the refugees, IDPs, displaced persons and other affected populations. The co-Moderators intend to resume in the next session discussions on the draft document previously tabled by them and discussed in the previous rounds.