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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1467th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 April 2024

On the Geneva International Discussions

Madam Chairperson,

The 60th round of the Geneva International Discussions on Security and Stability in the Trans-Caucasus took place in Geneva on 5 April. Delegations from the Republic of Abkhazia, Georgia, the Republic of South Ossetia, the Russian Federation and the United States of America took part in the work of this internationally agreed format for the post-conflict settlement of relations in the “Sukhum-Tbilisi-Tskhinval triangle”. The discussions were co-chaired by representatives of the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Union.

We consider it important to note that the general attitude towards continuing the joint work under the auspices of the Geneva International Discussions was reaffirmed in Geneva. During the talks, the Russian representatives emphasized that there was no alternative to direct dialogue between Georgia and Abkhazia and Georgia and South Ossetia. At the same time, it is necessary to focus on accomplishing the main task of ensuring lasting security for Abkhazia and South Ossetia through the conclusion of a legally binding agreement on the non-use of force by Georgia against these republics. Initiating the process of delimiting and subsequently demarcating the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-South Ossetian State borders would also contribute to strengthening security.

These tasks need to be carried out as soon as possible, given the ongoing provocative steps being taken by the United States and NATO. The increase in their military training activities in the Black Sea region and their plans to further expand the alliance, including through the admission of Georgia to the bloc, have not gone unnoticed. There is also a continuing threat to regional stability and security stemming from the military biological activities carried out in the Trans-Caucasus by the United States and a number of other NATO member countries.

The operation of the Hotline and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) in the village of Ergnet on the Georgian-South Ossetian border helps to maintain the generally calm situation on the ground. We advocate the swift resumption of the activities of the IPRM on the Georgian-Abkhazian border in Gal.

Georgia's annual politicized United Nations General Assembly resolution on displaced persons and refugees continues to hamper the regular work of the Geneva International Discussions on the humanitarian track. The fact that representatives of the authorities in Sukhum and Tskhinval have been barred access to the United Nation platforms to present their national positions on this issue is preventing progress from being made in Geneva in this important area.

Thank you for your attention.