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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1394th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 October 2022

**On the results of the 56th round of the
Geneva International Discussions on the Trans-Caucasus**

Mr. Chairperson,

The 56th round of the Geneva International Discussions on Security and Stability in the Trans-Caucasus took place in Geneva on 5 October with the participation of representatives of the Republic of Abkhazia, Georgia, the Republic of South Ossetia, the Russian Federation and the United States of America under the co-chairmanship of the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Union.

During the negotiations, the Russian side expressed its concern about the attempts by some participants in the Geneva Discussions to link the negotiation process to the general geopolitical situation. Such an approach had made it impossible to hold the latest round of Discussions for more than nine months. The Co-Chairs were called upon to avoid politicization and to focus on finding solutions to the security problems in the South Caucasus region.

In that context, we believe it important to move on to practical work of concluding a legally binding agreement on the non-use of force between Georgia on the one hand, and Abkhazia and South Ossetia on the other. The delimitation of the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-South Ossetian borders and their subsequent demarcation also remain necessary in terms of increasing the level of security in the region.

Despite the long break in the negotiations in Geneva, the situation in the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-South Ossetian border region remains relatively calm. This has been largely facilitated by the sustained functioning of the negotiation tools such as the hotlines and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergnet. We are in favour of a resumption of the activities of the similar mechanism on the border between Georgia and Abkhazia in Gal.

We believe that in the interests of stability in the South Caucasus region it is important not to allow the work of the Geneva format to become stalled again. We urge all the parties concerned, above all the Co-Chairs, to give this matter the most serious consideration.

Thank you for your attention.