



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

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**STATEMENT**

*Delivered by Ambassador Victor Dolidze  
at the 28<sup>th</sup> Special Joint Meeting FSC/PC  
Vienna, 23 May, 2007*

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to warmly welcome His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Lavrov at today's joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Cooperation and to thank him for his Statement on number of principle issues of our common interest.

I would like to take this opportunity to identify and pay attention to some important issues.

Georgia's top priority is to build a democratic and economically viable state, a kind of success which has become a case in the most part of Europe. To this aim large scale of reforms are being implemented in nearly every realm in my country.

Another top priority on our agenda is to build solid and sustainable good neighbourly relations with all the countries in our nearest neighbourhood, in particular with the Russian Federation – the largest neighbour to Georgia. Georgia has been continuously undertaking efforts to explore effective and acceptable means and channels for improving bilateral cooperation with the Russian side on the issues of mutual interest.

We are confident that the above objectives are fully compatible and supplementary to each other. At the same time, we are convinced that only democratic, prosperous and united Georgia is in the best interests and needs to its friends and partners.

The most serious obstacle to this end involves the protracted territorial conflicts in Georgia. At the same time, the central issue on the Georgian-Russian agenda of bilateral relations remains to be the peaceful settlement of those conflicts. Georgia is resolute to find lasting and viable solution to these conflicts. First of all, the Government of Georgia is absolutely determined to resolve the conflicts peacefully and it is working in this spirit. This is our policy and commitment.

The Georgian proposals and peace initiatives to solve conflicts those of the Peace Plan for Tskhinvali region and the Road Map for Abkhazia are well

known and internationally supported as well as principles contained in the “Paper on Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi and Sokhumi”, so called “Boden Document” shall serve as a solid ground for achieving a lasting and comprehensive settlement. I will not take much time and go in details to explain every single aspect of those initiatives. The bottom line of the proposals lies in having direct and genuine dialogue with Abkhaz and South Ossetian sides, as well as a wider impartial international involvement in the peace process, setting political settlement and distribution of competencies as final goals.

There are certain things realization of which will have positive impact not only on Russian-Georgian relations but on the regional development as well.

We think that welcoming separatist leaders and treating them as “presidents”, channelling unilateral assistance to them should be abandoned and separatist regimes should get right messages that there is no chance for them neither to turn into a part of the Russian Federation nor to become independent states. In this context, a recently issued “Survey of Russian Federation Foreign Policy” and, in particular, its “recommendations” regarding the territorial conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Georgia deepens our concerns regarding impartiality and facilitating role of the Russian Federation in terms of properly addressing resolution of these conflicts.

We are confident that the Russian Federation could do much to have the conflicts resolved. The Georgian side considers the Russian Federation as a powerful international actor, having good resources for and being able to positively contribute to the peaceful conflict resolution processes in Georgia by playing the role of genuine facilitator together with the OSCE, UN, European Union, United States and the whole international community.

We as participating states should exploit this organization for good, for strengthening security and cooperation in any part of its area where mostly it is needed. Majority of the OSCE participating states long have been advocating and targeting number of principle issues aimed at peaceful conflict resolution in the Tskhinvali region, issues like confidence and security building measures in the region and full demilitarisation of it, JPKF to fulfil its mandated functions, increase number of OSCE monitors, stopping obstruction of OSCE patrols and insuring their unhindered movement and independent monitoring of Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, establishing a permanent JPKF-OSCE check-point at Didi Gupta, Georgian-Russian-OSCE monitoring of the Roki tunnel etc.

With regard to Abkhazia, it is necessary to once again underline the necessity of early deployment of the UNOMIG civilian police component and establishment of the UN/OSCE human rights office in the Gali region of Abkhazia, Georgia, in compliance with the UNSC resolutions. Taking into account high rate of criminal activities, gross and mass human rights violations of the local population (predominantly ethnic Georgians) in the region, we need

to have strong and impartial UN/OSCE structures on the ground, with due capacities to adequately address these issues.

After so many years, many negotiations that have been conducted, meetings that have been held, all the plans and peace initiatives that have been proposed, we all know more or less what are the best ways for confidence building, for socio-economic rehabilitation and sustainability of the regions and how an acceptable final settlement might look.

The conflict regions in Georgia today undergo quite specific developments. Establishment of the Provisional Administrative-Territorial Entity in Tskhinvali region, as an important stage of a continuous process, deriving from the Peace Plan recognized at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council Meeting in 2005, and reinforced by the flexible proposals of Georgian side in its draft Memorandum in March 2007, as well as bringing law and order to the Upper Abkhazia and re-dislocation of the Government of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia signal precious chances for realistically advancing the peace processes.

These new realities create promising possibilities for peaceful resolution, as they could positively influence the processes, so it would be expedient for all international actors, including the Russian Federation, to involve in active cooperation with above entities in order to have a clear understanding of the situation on ground.

Here I would like to draw distinguished Ministers' attention to the following – Upset by establishment of the legitimate Provisional Administrative-Territorial Entity by the Georgian side, the separatist regime is undertaking all efforts to somehow provoke military confrontation again. In this context, we underline that it is exactly the time for the JPKF to prove their capability and immediately start implementing the main task under their mandate – full demilitarization of the region.

At the same time the Georgian side undertakes active measures to engage Sokhumi and Tskhinvali regimes into dialogue and bring them back to the negotiations' table. The Georgian approach to above processes is inclusive, not exclusive – and we would like to stress it again – the Georgian side is ready to remain involved in negotiations within the framework of existing conflict settlement formats, with all stakeholders. We will continue the dialogue with all representatives of the communities of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, who has appropriate interest and will for result-oriented cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Minister Lavrov,

We have repeatedly expressed our readiness for open and constructive dialogue with our Russian colleagues, at all appropriate levels. We believe that

establishing economic embargoes on Georgia while operating illegitimate checkpoints on the Abkhazian and Tskhinvali region/south Ossetian segments of Georgian state border does not serve for good.

Mr. Chairman,

As for the other issues regarding OSCE's role in the European security architecture as well as in addressing new security threats and challenges, its institutions and its work in all three dimensions, its field activities, election observation missions and ODIHR's work, role of the CFE Treaty as well as other issues concerned I would like to fully subscribe to the statement of the EU and share the particular views contained in the statement.

In conclusion let me sincerely offer all the best wishes to H.E Foreign Minister Mr. Sergey Lavrov.

Thank You.