



**Statement as delivered by the delegation of Georgia at the
2015 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 10, Freedom of Movement
Warsaw, September 28, 2015**

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

- Georgia fully shares the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and its member states, however allow me to make the following statement in my national capacity.
- I would like draw your attention to the situation in Georgia's occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia, which remains alarming. Even today, as we speak, the very fundamental principles of international law, namely the UN charter and the Helsinki Final Acts are being violated on Georgia's occupied territories. People residing within the occupied regions and in the adjacent areas are deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms, including the freedom of movement.
- The severe regulations are imposed for crossing the occupation line and extend even to the most vulnerable population seeking an immediate medical assistance.
- The practice of detentions for crossing the so-called "border" continues. Based on the calculations of first three months (January-March) of 2015, according to the Russian FSB officials, more than **550** people were detained in the region of Abkhazia for the so called "illegal border crossing" reasons.
- Similar to Abkhazian direction, detention of local population for so called "Illegal border crossing" reasons is a frequent practice for Tskhinvali occupation regime. Since the beginning of 2015 up to September in total **108** persons have been detained for the same reasons.
- Moreover, artificial obstacles, such as barbwire fences and embankments installed by the Russian occupation forces along the occupation line, divide the houses and yards of local population. The so called "Borderization" process run by the Russian occupation forces still continues on the ground. In total, more than **12 km** line of barbwire/fences have been already installed along the Abkhazian occupation line. While in ShidaKartli region's segment nearly **51** kilometers of barbwires and fences are installed.

- These illegal installations deprive the local population to freely move in their own orchards, farming lands, fences and even in their own houses. Local population is left without the drinking and irrigation water. They cannot access the local cemeteries, churches and to visit their relatives residing beyond the barbwire fences.
- One of the most recent cases was observed on 10th of July, 2015, when Russian FSB officers illegally installed the so called border signs on the territory adjacent to the village Tsitelubani, Gori district and the village Orchosani, occupied Akhgori district, in close vicinity to the Tbilisi-Gori central highway. On August 10-12, 2015, the new wave of installation of banners was observed on the territory adjacent to the villages of Tamarasheni and Tseronisi of the Kareli district by the Russian FSB officers. It is worth to mention, that after the recent wave of installation of the so called border banner signs nearly **153** local residents lost the access to their agricultural plots (in total **58** hectares).
- The situation has worsened after the signature of the so-called “treaties” between the Russian Federation and the occupation regimes. According to international law these documents are as null and void as any other so called agreements concluded between an occupying country and the occupation regime it has set up. In practice, the signing and subsequent implementation of the documents will further aggravate the situation of the population residing in the occupied regions. This is particularly alarming as no international monitoring mechanisms are allowed inside the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions.
- Considering the afore mentioned, there is an urgent need to:
 - Call upon the Russian Federation to immediately stop and reverse the process of barbwire installation along the occupational lines and act in accordance with the international law, Helsinki Final Acts and its commitments under the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement;
 - Call upon the Russian Federation to comply with its obligations under the international humanitarian and human rights law and as an occupying power, cease the ongoing flagrant violations of fundamental rights and freedoms of the population residing in the occupied territories;
 - Urge the international community to become more active in seeking the access to the occupied territories as well as adjacent areas and establish a Human Rights monitoring mechanism which will be tasked with the assessment of the situation on the ground;

- Place OSCE at the forefront of addressing restriction of freedom of movement, displacement and human right violations on the occupied territories and start discussions on restoration of the OSCE mission in Georgia.

Thank you.