

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF GENEVA DISCUSSIONS

08.06.2010

FINAL

The participants of Geneva Discussions have completed their 11th round.

They met in two working groups, and discussed, respectively, security and stability issues and humanitarian matters. They agreed to reconvene in the same format on 27 July 2010.

Working Group I reviewed the overall security situation since the last round of Geneva Discussions. The participants expressed concern with the recent incidents in the Gali district. They regretted the loss of lives and urged for the need to avoid further destabilisation or an increase of tensions on the ground. In response to these recent incidents, the participants agreed to convene early next week a meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) in Gali. The Co-Chairs also recalled that joint visits to the sites of incidents are part of the mechanisms and could be used on this occasion.

In this context, the participants reaffirmed the importance of the IPRMs, and in particular the use of the hotline. They welcomed the meeting in the framework of the Dvani/Ergneti IPRM that took place on 3rd June, and expressed the hope that regular and full work of this IPRM could be resumed shortly. They look forward to the presentation of the report on missing persons and detainees by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg.

The participants continued to exchange views on the issue of non-use of force and international security arrangements, as well as on best practices and cooperation on the ground. The Co-Chairs introduced suggestions with regard to additional information on building trust and transparency, which will be further explored during the next session of Geneva Discussions.

In Working Group II, the participants took part in an information session on the technical aspects of Human Rights observation and promotion. The co-moderators will explore how field experience and lessons learned can be used to further concrete objectives and activities of Working Group II.

The participants continued discussions on the items of the draft “Agreed Undertakings” tabled by the co-moderators. The discussion focused this time, inter alia, on property-related issues, but without full participation at the end of the session. Basic differences remain and the Co-Chairs call upon all the participants to stay engaged in this ongoing work in a constructive manner. The next session will review further contributions to the text and address outstanding issues.