



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement in response to the address by the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions

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to the 1493rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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Madam Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions to the Permanent Council and thanks them for their address.

The GID is a key international mechanism for finding solution to the 2008 Russian-Georgian conflict as well as for solving the problems of the conflict affected population on the ground. Ukraine fully supports the activities of the GID Co-Chairs.

As a party to the conflict, Russia remains the main obstacle to its full resolution. It keeps obstructing the negotiation process by non-implementation of its obligations under the 2008 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement and unwillingness to withdraw its armed formations and occupation administrations from the temporarily occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali.

Russian illegal activities on further militarization and de-facto annexation of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, including establishing the naval base at the occupied Abkhazian port of Ochamchire severely undermine the politico-diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the conflict.

By occupying the Georgian sovereign territory Russia is causing the years long suffering of thousands of Georgian people.

The humanitarian situation in the Russia-occupied Georgian regions is extremely challenging. The ongoing illegal detentions and restrictions of freedom of movement along and across the occupation line every year increase the death toll of the Russian occupation.

The ongoing refusal by Russia and its proxies to discuss issues related to internally displaced persons and refugees blocks the GID's full-fledged engagement.

Dear Colleagues,

Full and unconditional de-occupation of the Georgian territories is the imperative precondition for resolution of the Russian-Georgian conflict, ensuring human rights and freedoms and providing for stability and prosperity in the region.

We should exert every political and economic pressure on Russia to make it

affirm and implement the non-use of force commitments, comply with the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case concerning the armed conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation in August 2008 and its consequences, and contribute to creating necessary conditions for establishing of the international security arrangements on the ground.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Ukraine's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.