



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

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, 8 October 2009
Working Session 16: Human Dimension Activities

Statement of the Georgian Delegation

Mr. Chairman,

Georgia fully supports activities of the ODIHR and appreciates all those steps which this organization undertook in Georgia, thus contributing to the country's democratic development.

After Russian-Georgian war of August 2008, when the presence of International Organizations on the ground could play a vital role in stabilization process in the conflict regions of Georgia, an only OSCE member State – Russian Federation has blocked the extension of mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia. Russia had also vetoed extension of UN Observation Mission's mandate in Abkhazia, Georgia.

Thus, in the OSCE area, particularly on the territory of Georgia two black holes emerged, where not only fundamental rights and freedoms are massively violated, but also no international reporting mechanism exists.

Last year, two human rights watchdogs in the OSCE – ODIHR and HCNM – under the instructions of the Finnish Chairmanship reported on systematic violations of human rights of the IDPs aftermath of the Russian-Georgian war. This report set forth a whole range of recommendations that need to be carried out by everyone, including the governments of Russia and Georgia, the authorities of the two occupied regions, as well as OSCE itself in order to address human rights issues and ensure that the ODPs and refugees return to their homes in safety and dignity.

We have been stressing continuously about the crucial importance of the follow-up of this report. This approach is largely shared by OSCE community, so far, however, the organization has not managed to promote not only implementation of the recommendations, but even a dialogue on the status of the implementation.

We once again urge the OSCE community to start dialogue and implementation of the recommendations, outlined in ODIHR-HCNM report with no further delay.

Thank you.