



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

**S T A T E M E N T**

in reply to the statements by the Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Didier Burkhalter and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, H.E. Ivan Mrkic

As delivered by the Delegation of Georgia  
at the OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 958

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me join others in warmly welcoming the head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Didier Burkhalter and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, H.E. Mr. Ivan Mrkic to the Permanent Council and thank them for presenting an outline of their priorities as the OSCE Chairman in 2014 and 2015. On behalf of the Georgian Delegation, let me emphasize that we share the spirit and determination of two Ministers, as well as their goals and objectives.

Dear Ministers,

We hope that your guidance will help us to address the existing challenges and make progress towards the accomplishment of our affirmed goals. On our part, we would like to assure you in our support for the initiatives and activities of your Chairmanships aimed at achieving the progress in realizing the vision of common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community.

Dear Colleagues,

The very essence of the Swiss Chairmanship “Creating a Security Community for the Benefit of Everyone” is indeed inspiring, just as it is encouraging to already observe the specific efforts of your consecutive chairmanships in this direction.

Today, we all realize that the Organization finds itself in challenging times. We are being constantly reminded and faced with persisting threats that seriously affect the sense of security in the OSCE area. In response to this, what we need is to demonstrate our strong will and redouble our efforts to strengthen the role that the OSCE plays in all three

dimensions of its unique approach to security. While we recognize the importance of maintaining the wide-ranging and constructive dialogue among the participating states of the OSCE, the litmus test of the effectiveness of our organization is the concrete and tangible results that it is to deliver, statements of good will translated into specific actions, organization's mandate fulfilled in its increased ability. We genuinely hope that the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships' dedication and efforts will allow for building bridges and give an impetus to the revival of OSCE's institutional and operational capacities, ultimately transforming it into a strong OSCE.

Mr. Chairman,

Georgia welcomes the comprehensive Joint Work Plan elaborated by Switzerland and Serbia. We believe that the proposed Joint Work Plan is a good effort to streamline our work in main priority areas of OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. At the same time, we hope that since the Joint Work Plan is intended to be a living document, it will inevitably incorporate several key points as a result of our deliberations, which we believe are fundamental for the achievement of our common goals. Today, instead of outlining the position of Georgia towards the document in details, I will provide a brief recap of Georgia's views on our future work during the next two years.

- First of all, we support the enhancement of the OSCE's role in monitoring the process of implementation of commitments. It is our conviction that strengthening OSCE's monitoring functions should apply to all three dimensions.
- We believe that our efforts to review and update the existing elements of the conflict cycle toolbox should equally apply and focus on conflict resolution phase – the integral part of the Conflict Cycle.
- Given the existence of unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area that pose great challenges to security and stability of the participating states, the Joint Work Plan should absolutely touch upon the conflict resolution and foresee the appropriate actions in this end. As the conflict resolution is at the heart of the OSCE's mandate, we should seek ways to update and revive existing instruments of peaceful resolution of the existing conflicts. In this regard, we encourage the upcoming Chairmanships to continue efforts to work towards the restoration of a full-fledged and comprehensive OSCE presence in Georgia, including the peacekeeping, military and police monitoring of the occupied regions.
- The pro-active and dynamic role of the OSCE within the Geneva International Discussions, as well as its participation in the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms should be continued and ensured. Herewith, we welcome the decision of the consecutive chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia to appoint Special Representatives for two years.
- Taking into account the Vilnius Ministerial Council Decision 3/11, which inter alia encourages participating States to make greater use of confidence building measures and

building upon the work of the previous Chairmanships, our discussions and deliberations should focus on enhancing CIO's activities in this direction.

- Considering the need to resolve the issue of displacement, we need to place the OSCE at the forefront of addressing forced displacement and its security implications. We believe that the OSCE should dedicate more structured institutional attention to the link between the forced displacement and the conflict cycle. It is essential to keep the issues related to the fundamental rights and freedoms of IDPs high on the OSCE agenda.

We appreciate the determination of Switzerland and Serbia to lead the 'Helsinki+40' process for the next two years and together with the Ukrainian Chairmanship take the responsibility for guiding the participating states through this ambitious and challenging endeavor. We hope that our joint efforts will enable us to register progress even on those controversial issues, which hamper the organizations work and hinder the way forward towards a genuine security community.

Your Excellencies,

I would like to once again thank you and express hope that your determination, fused with your strong will and experience of accommodating multiple interests, will allow our organization to take concrete steps towards the materialization of your Chairmanship's motto, which I am sure everyone shares.

Thank you.