



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1400<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
24 November 2022

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Ukraine has aligned itself with the statement delivered under this agenda item by the Delegation of the European Union. At the same time, I would also like to add some remarks in the national capacity.

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

GID is a key international mechanism for finding solution to the 2008 russian-Georgian conflict. One of the crucial components of relevant efforts is solving the problems of conflict affected population on the ground. Much more progress within mentioned efforts could be reached if russia reciprocated Georgian constructive approach and showed its political will in this regard.

But for years we witness the opposite: moscow regime, as a party to this conflict, continues to undermine the negotiation process by intentional unwillingness to implement its obligations under the 2008 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement and withdraw its armed formations and occupation administrations from the temporarily occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali.

Tragic outcomes of the russian war of aggression against Ukraine and numerous war crimes, committed by the russian invaders against civilian population of my country clearly show that people's sufferings mean nothing for the aggressor.

In the same way the moscow regime demonstrates its real approach to thousands of the conflict affected people in Georgia, who continue suffering from further deteriorating humanitarian situation in the russia-occupied territories of Georgia as well as from illegal detentions and restrictions of freedom of movement along and across the occupation line. Georgians on russia-occupied territories continue to face discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity.

At the same time, these are russia and its proxies who have been refusing to discuss issues related to the internally displaced persons and refugees within the GID negotiation process year by year.

Ukraine fully supports both Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms in Ergneti and Gali. It is crucially important to restore the Gali IPRM, which remains suspended since 2018, as soon as possible and without any preconditions.

Ongoing illegal activities by the russian occupants aimed at further militarization and de-facto annexation of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali additionally undermine efforts within the GID format. moscow also continues its illegal

attempts to unilaterally define the Georgian-russian state border along the segment of the mentioned occupied Georgian territories and incorporate a part of Aibga village of Gagra District into krasnodar krai in breach of core norms and principles of international law.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Ukraine's position remains firm and unchanged as we strongly condemn the ongoing partial occupation of the Georgian territories by russia.

Any progress in resolution of the russian-Georgian conflict will be hardly possible as long as the russian terrorist regime, continues occupying the Georgian sovereign territory, posing a constant threat of wider military aggression against Georgia.

We reiterate our call to re-establish the meaningful OSCE's presence in Georgia, capable to operate within the internationally recognized Georgian territory without any restrictions. We believe that more active OSCE's involvement could significantly contribute to reducing tensions on the ground and supporting conflict-affected population.

There is also an urgent need to re-energize efforts aimed at removing russia-posed restrictions to implementation of the EU Monitoring Mission's mandate, whose activities we strongly support.

Ukraine praises Georgia for demonstration of its political will and constructive approach to the conflict resolution efforts by unilaterally reaffirming the non-use of force commitments. We have to exert every pressure on russia, as a party to the conflict, to make it reciprocate relevant Georgian steps as soon as possible and fully 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.

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, Mr. Chairperson.**