



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

of the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE
Mr. Paata Gaprindashvili

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Mr. Chairman,

Thirteenth round of the Geneva talks was held on October 14, 2010 where the issues of security and stability in Georgia's occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions and the safe and dignified return of the IDPs and refugees to the places of their habitual residence were discussed in two WGs.

To the disappointment of the Georgian side 13th round of the Geneva Talks was once again marred with the walk-out of the participants from the Tskhinvali proxy regime from the Working Group, which deals with the IDPs and refugees return. Co-Chairs regretted the decision of the Tskhinvali proxy regime and stated in their press Communiqué that the "resumption of usual format of Working Group II is essential for confidence building and resolution of immediate humanitarian problems".

Prior to the Geneva Talks two information sessions were held on October 13, 2010. In one information session, participants received information from international experts on voluntary exchange of information and facilitation of communication across the occupation line. In another information session technical aspects of property restitution and return were discussed. During this session international experts shared experience gained in other regions to the participants of the Discussions. It was agreed that during the following rounds co-Chairs will continue to explore the ways how the field experience and lessons learnt in other conflict areas can be used to further the creation of conditions for the safe and dignified return of the IDPs and refugees to their homes.

In the first working group, dealing with security and stability, participants and co-Chairs called for full implementation of the August 12 cease-fire agreement and withdrawal of the Russian troops from the occupied Georgian territories. Particular attention was paid to the currently ongoing work of the so-called "demarcation" of the occupation line and the imposition of the artificial restrictions on the freedom of movement of the local population.

During the session, the Georgian side once again called upon Moscow and its proxy regimes to release without delay all detained persons and to ensure the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms in the occupied regions of Georgia. I want to stress that the lives of

the detained persons, some of whom require urgent medical assistance continue to be in danger as a result of inhuman and degrading treatment that they are regularly subjected to. We appeal to the international community to undertake a concerted action and to persuade the Russian Federation and its proxy regimes to abandon the practice of taking hostages and release these persons immediately. It is essential international humanitarian agencies to receive full access to these detained persons, as well as other persons in need of humanitarian assistance inside the occupied regions of Georgia.

During the meeting of the first working group, the Georgian side once again raised the importance of the full functioning of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms. During this round participants have now reached an agreement to resume the work of the Ergneti/Dvani IPRM by the end of October. This meeting has taken place today. We want to sincerely hope that the agreement reached within the Geneva framework is honored and the work of the mechanism, which had been suspended for the last year because of the position of Moscow and Tskhinvali, is finally restored and functions properly.

Another issue, which was discussed during the 13th round, is a decision of Moscow to withdraw its armed forces from the occupied village of Perevi. On 18 October Russian forces left Perevi. While this development is a great relief for the local residents of Perevi, it should be stressed that this is an initial step that must be followed with the full implementation of the EU-brokered Six point Agreement of 12 August and its implementing measures of 8 September.

In the first Working Group participants continued discussing issues related to the non-use of force and international security arrangements. Unfortunately, participants from Moscow continue to reject the approach proposed by the co-Chairs, once again demonstrating that they are unwilling to engage in the discussions over the establishment of the effective security regime in the occupied territories, consisting of the international security arrangements and the agreement on the non-use of force.

In the Second Working Group the participants started their work around the review of the humanitarian situation on the ground and pointed out the necessity for concrete humanitarian actions in light of the upcoming winter. Once again, due to the lack of willingness from the side of Moscow and its proxy regimes, no substantial progress was reached in the Second Working Group. Participants will return to the issue of establishing the conditions of safety and dignity for the internally displaced persons through the joint undertakings during the following round. The Georgian side hopes that at least during the next round second working group will be able to assemble in full composition and engage in a meaningful dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, Dear Colleagues,

I think in my statement I have more or less covered all important issues of the Geneva Talks and it's good that we continue addressing at the PC meetings those issues, which are pertinent to the OSCE work in various conflict situations. We soon start our extensive work over the Summit document. In that context I hope that we would be able to find necessary political will to engage constructively in the dialogue related to the resolution of the conflict in Georgia. Georgia is looking forward to these negotiations and is ready to work extensively on all relevant issues pertinent to security and cooperation, which are fundamentals of our organization.

Thank You.