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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on “Presidential Elections” in South Ossetia

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 17, 2011

The United States does not recognize the legitimacy or the outcome of the so-called “presidential elections and referendum” held in Georgia’s South Ossetia region on November 13. We reiterate our strong support for Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

We again urge Russia to fulfill all of its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement, including withdrawal of forces to pre-conflict positions and free access for humanitarian assistance to the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.