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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 954th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 May 2013

**Regarding infrastructure development on the national border of
South Ossetia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We firmly reject the accusations and judgements provided in the Georgian delegation's statement regarding the actions of Russian border guards in South Ossetia. These accusations and judgements are entirely unfounded, are politicized in nature, and do not reflect the new political realities of the region. Furthermore, such statements do nothing to improve relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia.

We should like to recall that Russian border guards are lawfully present in the Republic of South Ossetia, in accordance with the 2009 international agreement. In partnership with South Ossetian border guards, they defend the national border between South Ossetia and Georgia. Work to develop the infrastructure of this border is being duly undertaken in the context of the legal right of the South Ossetian authorities to reinforce their statehood and national sovereignty.

The leadership of the Republic of South Ossetia has already provided explanations on several occasions regarding the engineering work being carried out by the South Ossetian border agency in accordance with the laws of the Republic. On 28 May, such explanations were provided in a statement given by the head of the South Ossetian delegation to the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, Mr. Khokh Gagloity, as well as in remarks made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Ossetia. To allay possible concerns, including those of a technical nature, specially created mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to incidents.

At the same time, we believe that the most realistic way of resolving border enforcement issues would be the creation of a bilateral commission on the delimitation of Georgia's borders with neighbouring States.

Thank you for your attention.