

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF GENEVA DISCUSSIONS

30.03.2010

The participants of Geneva Discussions have met for the 10th round, in two working groups, and have discussed, respectively, security and stability issues and humanitarian matters. They agreed to continue their discussions in the same format on 8 June 2010.

Working Group I reviewed the overall security situation since the last round of Geneva Discussions. Against the background of a relatively calm and stable general situation, it was noted that tensions continue to exist. It was highlighted that provocative actions and rhetorics are not helpful for the ongoing efforts to stabilize the situation on the ground and should therefore be avoided.

In this respect, the Co-Chairs emphasized the stabilizing role of Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms. All participants agreed that IPRMs are essential instruments to address issues pertaining to stability and security on the ground.

The Co-Chairs together with all participants will take concrete steps to ensure the full functioning of the two Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms.

The participants discussed the issue of missing persons, and welcomed the ongoing contribution by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg. The participants also reviewed the issue of release of all detainees, and agreed that a solution leading to a release of all would be a further positive development.

The participants continued their discussion on different draft proposals related to the non-use of force and international security arrangements. All of these drafts are aiming at consolidation of security commitments. The Co-Chairs will pursue their work to facilitate exchanges on this central subject, including on the various additional proposals. They also agreed on the need to further advance on confidence-building measures, in particular on voluntary exchange of information on sensitive activities within IPRMs. The participants agreed to proceed with discussions on these subjects.

In Working Group II, participants made further progress in the negotiation on the items of the draft “Agreed Undertakings” tabled by the co-moderators, focusing this time on go-and-see visits of displaced persons and on human rights observation and promotion in affected areas. Participants took part in two information sessions covering the technical aspects of the registration, sampling and profiling of affected populations, as well as the organisation of go-and-see visits to the places of former habitual residence. The co-moderators will explore ways in which the lessons learned in other conflict areas, as shared in the information sessions, can be used to further the concrete objectives of Working Group II. Participants have agreed to nominate contact persons for further consideration of the possibility of go-and-see visits, including when and where they are considered possible. Information sessions on the other issues, including Human Rights observation and promotion, utilities and property rights, will be organised during the next sessions of Geneva Discussions.