

**The Statement of the Delegation of Georgia regarding the
International Conference on Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict in South Ossetia,
Georgia**

(delivered at the 564th Permanent Council Meeting on July 21, 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

As you are aware, on July 9-10, the international conference initiated by the President of Georgia was held in Batumi. This conference serves as another proof of Georgian Government's determination to solve the conflict in South Ossetian region of Georgia by peaceful means, with the broad involvement of the civil society, international organizations, particularly the OSCE and the partner countries.

The main goal of the conference was to present to the international community the concrete action plan for conflict settlement, where the main emphasis is made on the demilitarization, economic rehabilitation and development of the region, as well as carrying out of the negotiations on the political status issue. Particular significance was also attached to the realization of Georgian initiative on the restitution and compensation of property rights of the persons affected by the conflict.

The action plan underlines the importance of increasing the involvement of the OSCE Mission to Georgia in the conflict settlement process with its strengthened activities in the fields of disarmament, demilitarization, reintegration, as well as joint police unit activation and efficient border patrolling. The importance of strengthening the cooperation with the Russian Federation within the OSCE framework and usefulness of the OSCE participation in the implementation process of the rehabilitation programs sponsored by the EU is also underlined.

Mr. Chairman,

Let us also underscore the initiative of the OSCE Mission to Georgia targeting needs assessment in the areas affected by the conflict that will be implemented in cooperation with the EU, UNDP and UNHCR.

Unfortunately, because of the current tense situation in Tskhinvali region, the implementation process of the measures necessary for realization of the above initiatives is temporarily hindered. The purposeful actions of Georgian Government aimed at peaceful resolution of this conflict irritate certain forces, the provocative actions of which we strongly denounce.

To our deep regret, the Russian official circles negatively effect the conflict resolution process. The facts of illegal sending of the so called humanitarian cargo without a prior agreement with the Georgian authorities and through the Rocki tunnel (the most recent fact took place on June 25, 2005) are the vivid demonstrations of this negative involvement.

We hope that it will be possible to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Russian side on this and other important issues, in order to direct our joint efforts towards the creation of the appropriate conditions that will ensure peace and stability and the conditions necessary for the implementation of the above mentioned peaceful initiatives.