

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY  
ON THE REPORT BY AMBASSADOR TERHI HAKALA, HEAD OF OSCE  
MISSION TO GEORGIA, ON THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH-  
DECEMBER 2008 AND ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE END OF  
MANDATE PROCEDURE  
764<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
11 JUNE 2009**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

I join others in warmly welcoming Ambassador Hakala back to the Permanent Council, and thanking her for her comprehensive report. Great appreciation and thanks are due to both the OSCE Mission and the Government of Georgia for their longstanding, productive partnership under very challenging circumstances. Canada has fully supported the work of the OSCE in Georgia in all three dimensions, and we stand ready to do more – should a new OSCE mandate be realized.

We concur with Ambassador Hakala that the Mission has spared no effort in harnessing all the tools it had at its disposal to provide a constructive, creative and viable alternative to the current very regrettable situation facing Georgians and their country since last summer's armed conflict.

It is regrettable that, due to the intransigence of one participating State, the OSCE was prevented from reaching a consensus on extending the mandate of the Mission and its monitors in Georgia, particularly at a time when more – not less – international presence is needed, due to mounting tensions and incidents in the region.

In this connection, Canada again calls on the Russian Federation to consider supporting the Greek Chairmanship's compromise proposal to extend the OSCE mandate in Georgia. We, along with the overwhelming majority of the OSCE participating States, see the Chairman's package as the best possible basis for consensus, since it would maintain a status-neutral approach and secure a meaningful OSCE presence in all the war-affected regions of Georgia.

Georgia, as the host State, wants an OSCE presence in its territory and has requested our help because there are still real needs to be addressed, especially in the wake of the armed conflict last August. We join others in deeply regretting that the OSCE was prevented from fulfilling this wish of Georgia and continuing its longstanding role in this country, and its important work on conflict prevention and resolution.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.