

# **PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF GENEVA DISCUSSIONS**

11.11.2009

## **FINAL**

The participants in the Geneva Discussions have completed their eighth round.

All participants met in two parallel working groups to discuss security and stability in the region and humanitarian matters. They agreed to continue their discussions in the same format on 28 January 2010.

In Working Group I, the Co-Chairs reviewed the general security situation for the period since the last round of Geneva Discussions. Participants also reviewed in detail the work to date of both joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs), which were agreed during the fourth round of the Geneva Discussions on 17 and 18 February 2009. Participants supported the continued contribution of IPRMs to improving people's lives by addressing practical security-related matters. Whilst the overall security situation on the ground was assessed as relatively stable, the Co-Chairs expressed their concern about a number of recent detentions. They noted that these incidents should be addressed through the IPRMs, which remain the most effective way to resolve matters important for all sides.

The participants exchanged views on the report of the Independent International Fact-finding Mission on the Conflict in Georgia, which was headed by Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini of Switzerland. Participants agreed the report contained useful lessons to draw on in contributing to building a more stable future.

Participants also discussed basic elements of a framework for an agreement related to the non-use of force and international security arrangements. The discussion was based on elements prepared by the Co-Chairs, following consultations with and including contributions provided by participants since the previous round of Geneva Discussions. Participants agreed that the elements form a good basis for further discussion. The Co-Chairs will continue to work on these elements ahead of the next round.

In Working Group II, participants continued their discussion on a proposal from the Co-Moderators for Agreed Undertakings on the return of refugees, internally displaced persons and other persons of concern. Substantive discussions have allowed participants to make some progress towards a comprehensive set of actions, but discussions will have to continue.