



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **On Syria's Recognition of the Independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Harry Kamian  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 31, 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The United States strongly condemns the Syrian regime's intention to establish diplomatic relations with the Russian-occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These regions are part of Georgia.

The United States' position on Abkhazia and South Ossetia is unwavering. We fully support Georgia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, and call on all states to be mindful of their obligations under the UN Charter and do the same. And once again, the United States urges Russia to withdraw its forces to pre-war positions per the 2008 ceasefire agreement.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.