



**EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

**S T A T E M E N T**

**Delivered by the Delegation of Georgia  
at the I Working Session of the  
2010 Annual Security Review Conference**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great privilege to greet you at this working session of the Annual Security Review Conference, where we are discussing the role of the OSCE in conflict resolution and the capabilities available to us to deal with the most serious issues in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

As many speakers have already noted, OSCE is in a serious need to improve its conflict resolution and prevention tools. Russian-Georgian war of August 2008, as well as the tragic events of Kyrgyzstan demonstrate how shorthanded can the OSCE be in the times of crisis.

In 2008 we launched a review of the work and effectiveness of this Organization. This process was then transformed into the Corfu discussions. As a result of a fragile consensus achieved in Athens in December of the last year, we all acquired an unique opportunity to freely share the ideas with each other about the ways how to strengthen the OSCE. Consequently a number of food-for-thought papers dealing with all aspects of security have been distributed and discussed. And while we await the interim report and the informal ministerial, we have to face the truth - in reality we have not changed anything so far! In reality we have not managed to make the lives of the people, who reside in the conflict affected areas more secure. In reality, we have not managed to protect the human rights of the victims of ethnic cleansing and

make their lives more dignified. Neither did we manage to create the atmosphere of trust. YET, I hope.

I am not sure whether the discussions we are having in this forum will reify in the increased capability of the OSCE. Reason for my doubts is that we do not see the sufficient collective political will in this Chamber to really change the situation on the ground, particularly when it comes to Georgia. Absence of the political will was the reason why the OSCE could not prevent escalation of the conflict in August 2008. Same problem, unfortunately, also remains today.

Dear Colleagues,

While we continue our discussions in the frames of the OSCE, problems that require urgent attention and have a potential to affect the security of the OSCE area continue to persist.

Situation in my country, while fortunately not grabbing the headlines any more, still requires urgent attention. Georgian problem is not only a problem of Georgia. Whole European security is challenged with the reality that we are facing as a result of ongoing Russian occupation of Georgian territories.

This reality challenges the atmosphere of confidence in the OSCE. It also undermines the instruments and tools that the OSCE community possesses.

Illegal presence of the Russian troops in Georgia has been challenging the arms control regime for over a decade now. It will continue to be a substantial challenge if unaddressed. Today we all hope that the renewed arms control regime could be elaborated. But the principles of transparency and host nation consent are jeopardized by the Russian presence, and therefore the whole perspective of the arms control regime is under question.

Two important instruments available to us – Vienna Document '99 and the Agreement on the Open Skies have already been challenged by the ongoing Russian occupation. Rules and regulations elaborated in these documents seem to be unable to adapt to the reality created as a result of Russia's intervention in Georgia. Unfortunately, main confidence and security building instruments available to us, will continue to be under serious jeopardy as long as the Georgian issue remains unresolved.

Moreover, the principle of *Pacta Sunt Servanda* is being violated blatantly in front of our eyes. August 12 cease-fire agreement has been basically torn up by Russia. Every single provision of this important document, agreed with the mediation of the French EU Presidency is questioned and violated. Commitments that have been undertaken towards the whole international community are not being implemented and the format designed to deal with the outstanding issues – the Geneva Discussions – is constantly undermined by walkouts, unconstructive behaviour and provocative actions.

Furthermore, the current security and human rights situation in the occupied regions of Georgia continues to be extremely grave due to the inability of the international community to enter these territories. Risk of further displacement and deterioration of the security situation is very high. As Mr. Manione noted correctly “the situation on the ground remains fragile and unpredictable”. This could yet spiral into the uncontrolled events, as long as the international community fails to solve the outstanding issue. And if the situation gets out of hand in Georgia once again, it is likely to have more far reaching consequences than in August 2008.

More importantly, we all have to put up with the fact that one of the members of this organization has committed ethnic cleansing and occupied parts of its neighbor. This is a Damocle’s sword that will continue hanging over this organization for years to come, undermining all our efforts to strengthen the OSCE.

Dear colleagues,

It is true that I only raised the problems, without giving the answers. I wish I had the answers. But before we seek the answers we should all share the belief that without solving the outstanding conflict related issues, our discussions will remain futile and responses – inadequate.

I will be very frank. Unfortunately, we do not see the processes in this organization as serving the purpose of removing the aforementioned Damocle’s sword from above our heads.

Indeed, we are engaged in the Corfu Process, which aims at improving trust and confidence, as well as improving the capabilities of this Organization. But is this process sufficient? Are we ready to follow up with the real actions and adopt real decisions? Or are we simply tired of the problems we face and

would like to wrap them into a catch phrase – Corfu Process, without actually delivering?

Dear Colleagues,

Number of important ideas have already been generated in this Organization. Now we need to build on them. Only talking about the problems is not going to solve them. Now is the time to act.

Having said this, I have to add that there still are some issues that could be addressed and resolved in this Organization.

One of such outstanding issues is that of the OSCE presence in Georgia. We have seen two vetoes on this matter during the last two years and we seem to have given up. If we do not persist, then we will never manage to resolve the matters of real importance. Therefore, if we really want to deliver, we should continue discussing the proposal elaborated by the Greek chairperson in office, which is still on the table and which only requires a consent from Russia.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to close by saying that the OSCE remains a unique organization, which was designed to deal with the security related challenges from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Over the recent years we have seen this organization's role decline and capabilities – diminish. But we can still make this Organization relevant and adequate to modern challenges. For this purpose we need to actually take steps and adopt decisions making OSCE more relevant and resolute. We need to persistently tackle the most serious outstanding issues, such as the reestablishing of OSCE presence in Georgia and failure to implement the August 12 cease-fire agreement.

Thank you very much.