



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**Statement by Georgian Delegation**

in response to the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions  
and Human Right

*(as delivered by Ambassador Victor DOLIDZE at 648<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council)  
Vienna, 1 February 2007*

Mr. Chairman,

I would like warmly welcome Ambassador Strohal back to the Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive overview of the plans and activities of ODIHR for the year 2007.

In 2006, Georgia has marked third anniversary of the Rose Revolution, a historical moment that paved way to a new democratic government whose reform agenda endeavors to transform the country into a successful democracy. Georgian government is fully committed to bring all its institutions in line with accepted international human rights standards. Georgia has managed to establish itself as a sound and open democracy to which the OSCE had significantly contributed.

We highly appreciate the activities of the ODIHR, particularly in the promotion of democratization and rule of law, human rights protection, tolerance and non-discrimination. Georgia stands ready to continue cooperation with the ODIHR with an aim to fulfil its human dimension commitments. In this context, we would like to underline the importance of the recommendations contained in the published reports, in line with MC Decision 19/06 and the suggestions included in “Common Responsibility”.

Contribution of the ODIHR in the field of elections should be specially underlined. We consider the ODIHR as the most objective proponent for free and fair

elections. With the significant input of the OSCE/ODIHR the recent local elections in Georgia were evaluated as free and fair.

We would like to draw your attention to the most vital issue for Georgia –territorial conflicts in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, where human rights of the local population are permanently being violated. In this regard, we once again call for early opening of joint UN/OSCE human rights office in the Gali region and urge the ODIHR to give its consideration to this issue.

Finally let me once again express gratitude for the efforts and work done by Ambassador Strohal and his team and express our strong support in all your endeavors.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.