

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF GENEVA DISCUSSIONS

17.09.2009

The participants in the Geneva Discussions have completed their seventh 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 11 November 2009.

In Working Group I, the Co-Chairs reviewed the general security situation for the period since the last round of these Geneva Discussions. Participants also reviewed the work of both joint incident prevention and response mechanisms, which were agreed during the fourth round of the Geneva Discussions on 17 and 18 February 2009. The mechanisms have each met four times to date. Participants welcomed the regular convening of these meetings. These mechanisms contribute to improving stability and security on the ground by providing a means for all participants to respond swiftly to security incidents. They also provide a forum for addressing security-related matters and preventive measures in order to tackle concrete matters aimed at improving people's lives.

Participants also discussed a non-paper presented by the Co-Chairs, based on earlier draft proposals by participants, related to the non-use of force and international security arrangements. The participants agreed that the Co-Chairs would take discussions on this point further in preparation for the next meeting, by drafting, in consultation with all participants, basic elements of a framework for an agreement.

In Working Group II, participants began discussing a proposal from the Co-Moderators for Agreed Undertakings on the return of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other displaced persons, based on submissions received from the participants after the sixth round of Geneva Discussions. Participants agreed to continue detailed scrutiny of the Co-Moderators' draft, with a view to reaching agreement on a comprehensive set of principles and measures.