



United States Mission to the OSCE

On Concerns over “Borderization” of Conflicts in Georgia

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Kate M. Byrnes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 13, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The United States notes our long-standing concern that the placement of so-called “border” markings along the administrative boundary lines of the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia undermines the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, and hinders the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The placement of such markers has a direct and negative impact on the well-being of all living in the area, harming their livelihoods, and restricting their freedom of movement, putting the vulnerable, including those requiring medical treatment, at greater risk.

Russia’s continued occupation of Georgia’s Abkhaz and South Ossetian regions is unacceptable. We reiterate our calls for Russia, as a party to the conflict, to fulfill its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement, including by withdrawing all its forces to pre-conflict positions and providing unhindered access for humanitarian assistance, as well as reversing its unilateral recognition of these Georgian regions as independent states. We unequivocally support Georgia’s sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, as well as its aspirations to integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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