



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 at the 762nd Permanent Council
Vienna 28 May, 2009*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

As my distinguished Russian colleague fairly mentioned, the Geneva negotiations of 18-19 May went in a rather specific manner.

Russia walked out from the fifth round of the Geneva Discussions on the Peace Process in Georgia on Monday, May 18, 2009. The new security arrangements in the occupied regions, Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism agreed during the last round but still to be enforced, establishment of international peacekeeping and/or police forces into the occupied regions, specific mechanisms for the safe and dignified return of the IDPs and refugees and access of international humanitarian aid to the population affected by the conflict, were left undiscussed.

Participants from Russia walked out from the Talks citing reasons not connected with the agenda or format of the Geneva Discussions. Participants from the proxy Tskhinvali regime also left the meeting, while representatives of Sokhumi proxy regime did not arrive to meeting at all.

Walkout of the Russian side is another proof that the Russian Federation pursues its long-set goal to obstruct the peace process in Georgia. This is yet another proof that Russia is in complete violation of principles and norms of international law and of the August 12 cease-fire agreement. Moreover, Russia's walkout clearly contradicts the UN Security Council Resolution 1866, which calls for the "intensification of efforts to address the issue of regional security and stability, and the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons, through the discussions currently under way in Geneva".

With this step Russia continued its destructive actions, including the termination of the OSCE presence in Georgia, denial of access to the occupied territories for the international monitoring missions, humanitarian aid and continued physical assaults on the EU and OSCE observers.

After the boycott of the first day of the Geneva Discussions, participants from Russia and the proxy regimes returned to the negotiations on May 19. During the sessions several important issues were discussed, namely, implementation of the August 12

cease-fire agreement, withdrawal of the Russian armed forces to the places held prior to the outbreak of hostilities, etc. It is deplorable that participants from Russia openly stated that they do not respect the article 5 of the cease-fire agreement in defiance of their international commitments.

Participants also discussed the security and stability situation in the occupied territories of Georgia and the modalities of international security arrangements. In this context particular emphasis was made on the necessity to establish international police and peacekeeping operations in these regions. We are concerned that despite the importance of the issue, Russia was not ready to engage constructively in these deliberations. Georgia expresses hope that the international community will pressure the Russian Federation to understand urgency of deploying international peacekeeping and police forces in the occupied regions, as an essential instrument for sustaining security and stability on these territories. During the meeting the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism was reviewed, and it was agreed to hold the next meeting in Dvani.

The fifth round of the Geneva Discussions made it obvious that Russia is trying to use the Geneva peace talks as a tool to blackmail the international community. This time Russia resorted to the threats to quit the Geneva Discussions, using it as a leverage on the developments in the United Nations. Notably, the co-chairs expressed their strong regret over the actions of Russia.

We hope that the co-chairs will use all the available tools to ensure that the alarming trend of Russia's actions with regard to the Geneva discussions is reversed at the next meeting. At the same time we maintain our full support to the Geneva format and call on all participants to positively contribute to the peace talks

Thank You