



United States Mission to the OSCE

Brussels Donors Conference

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 15, 2006

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Yesterday's OSCE donors' conference in Brussels for Georgia's South Ossetia region marked an important step toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict within Georgia's internationally-recognized borders. The United States would like to thank the Chairman-in-Office and our Mission in Georgia for all of their efforts to help make this conference a success. The United States at that conference pledged two million dollars for projects that will help implement Georgia's Peace Plan for its South Ossetia region, specifically confidence-building measures and economic rehabilitation.

The United States supports Georgia's territorial integrity and the efforts of the two sides in this separatist conflict to establish a lasting peace. We welcome the solidarity of the international community in reaffirming its support for Georgia's territorial integrity. The United States intends to build on this cooperation with our international partners, including the Georgian Government, the European Union, Russia and other G-8 countries, the OSCE, and all OSCE partner states, to achieve a just and lasting political settlement that affords South Ossetia significant autonomy within a unified Georgia.

The pledges of assistance made at the donors' conference are a sign of the international community's support for the projects identified in the OSCE Needs Assessment Study. These projects will draw Georgians and South Ossetians into closer economic cooperation, and offer a promising means of facilitating efforts toward the resolution of the conflict. Our pledges will be used to improve social and economic conditions for all inhabitants of Georgia's separatist South Ossetia region - Georgians and Ossetians alike. Future assistance for similar projects will depend on the commitment and demonstrated ability of the Georgian government and the South Ossetians to use the funds to improve the lives of the region's inhabitants and to further the peace process.

Peace will bring security and stability for the inhabitants of the South Ossetian region and, more broadly, the South Caucasus. U.S. assistance aims to support just and democratic governance nationally and regionally, to encourage leaders to invest in the needs of their citizens, and to expand opportunities for economic growth.

Unilateral assistance to the separatist regime in South Ossetia that is not coordinated with the Georgian Government only serves to widen the gap between the sides in the conflict. We were heartened to hear of Russia's intention to make a contribution at the conference, but somewhat disappointed that they chose this unilateral route. We hope the Russian Government will coordinate further assistance to South Ossetia with the Georgian Government, as agreed on December 23rd, 2000, and also coordinate with its international partners.

We applaud efforts to improve living conditions in this conflict-ridden region. The Peace Plan developed by Georgia and endorsed by last year's OSCE Ministerial in Ljubljana was an important step forward toward peace in South Ossetia. We hope the donations from the donors' conference will lead to many additional meaningful steps forward so the inhabitants of the South Ossetian region can enjoy growth, prosperity, security and peace.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.