



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON GEORGIA
As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik to
the Forum for Security Cooperation
30 April 2008

Madam Chair,

Let me first echo the EU's remarks of grave concern about the latest developments, leading to increased tension in the region.

In view of the contradictory versions we have heard, it is important to establish what really has happened. Based on the international division of labour and the central role of UN Observation Mission in Georgia in this area, it would seem most appropriate if UNOMIG could shoulder the main responsibility for establishing the hopefully uncontested truth. Accordingly, we welcome the news we heard from the Chairman-in-Office in the special PC meeting a moment ago that efforts are currently being made to establish a UN-led Fact Finding Group.

At the same time, the matter has been raised in the OSCE, as a clearly relevant forum, and the OSCE must remain seized with it.

We welcome and support the prompt reaction by the Chairman-in-Office, inter alia by dispatching a Special Representative to Georgia. We share the view that the FSC is the OSCE forum best equipped to deal with at least some of the most important aspects of the matter, and we accordingly strongly supported the proposal of the Chair to formally request the advice of the FSC, in accordance with the 2001 Bucharest Ministerial Decision, as I stated in the Preparatory committee a short while ago. We note with satisfaction that the matter is now on the agenda of the FSC, on the strength of the request of the Chairman in Office, and we fully support your proposal, Madam Chair, on how to proceed further.

Finally, Madam Chair, let me reiterate that we firmly believe that the Abkhazian and South-Ossetian conflicts must be resolved through peaceful negotiations, with full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia. We appeal to all the parties concerned to refrain for actions that could further jeopardise the stability in the area.