



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

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**S T A T E M E N T**

*Delivered by Ambassador Victor Dolidze  
at the 666<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council  
Vienna, 17 May, 2007*

Mr. Chairman,

At a last PC meeting I concluded my statement with expressing a strong belief that we – the international community together with Georgia – shall in no way allow certain destructive forces to impair in any possible way the process of peaceful settlement of the conflict, thus forcing us to resign from the path of constructive dialogue, confidence building and economic rehabilitation, as well as finding the final political solution of the conflict.

We all are aware that the path of reaching outstanding and viable solution to this protracted conflict is an extremely difficult one. The Georgian Government fully acknowledges certain dangers and is dedicated responsibly to cope with those threats and challenges.

We are grateful to our international partners, in particular to the EU, for their increased valuable involvement in the conflict resolution process. Let me repeat that only joint efforts could bring positive results. Today's statement of the German Ambassador also on behalf of the EU with its expressed concerns shows a dedication to encourage all the parties involved in the conflict to move steadily towards sustainable conflict resolution. The Georgian side stays in touch with its partners on a daily basis either in Tbilisi or elsewhere and coordinates all its efforts aimed at peaceful conflict resolution.

Having said this let me update you on recent very important developments regarding the Tskhinvali region. On 10 May 2007, by the Decree Nr. 296 of the President of Georgia, Administration of the Provisional Administrative-Territorial Entity (hereinafter – Administration) was established on the territory of the former Autonomous Province of South Ossetia, Georgia.

The main purpose of the Administration is to promote peaceful settlement of the conflict in the region, in accordance with the Law of Georgia on Creation of Appropriate Conditions for Peaceful Settlement of Conflict in Former Autonomous Province of South Ossetia, adopted by the Parliament on 13 April 2007.

In general terms, the key function of the Administration is to conduct dialogue with the central Government of Georgia, as well as all other stakeholders on behalf of local communities and political groups, with an aim to ensure defining the autonomous status of the region within the Georgian State and conferring a broad political self-governance to it.

By Presidential Decree Nr. 297 of 10 May 2007, the competence to exercise the functions of the Head of the Provisional Administrative-Territorial Entity has been delegated to the leader of political movement "People of South Ossetia for Peace", Mr. Dimitri Sanakoev. Mr. Sanakoev addressed the Parliament of Georgia at its 11 May session and presented his vision on the peaceful settlement of the conflict and on the future of the Tskhinvali region. The representatives of diplomatic corps accredited to Georgia were also present at the session. My Mission also distributed Mr. Sanakoev's speech couple of days ago among the delegations here at the OSCE.

Once again, these recent developments that are fully in accordance with the draft Memorandum on the Agreement of Further activities aimed at the Final settlement of the Conflict in Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia represent another important stage of a continuous process, deriving from the Peace Plan, which according to the Ljubljana Ministerial Council Meeting in 2005 serves as a basis for the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The goal of establishment of the Provisional Administrative-Territorial Entity in the region is to create appropriate conditions for a renewed result-oriented dialogue with participation of both Ossetian and Georgian communities, who endeavour to achieve peace and envision the future of the region within the Georgian State, with an aim to define principles of distribution of competences between the centre and the region. It is designed as a further important element to promote solving the problems regarding the absence of appropriate administrative services for the locally residing citizens of Georgia by modern governing structures, to make their daily life conditions better.

At the same time, we deem it important to address the OSCE, EU/EC, partner countries, appropriate UN agencies and local Georgian NGOs and ask for cooperation and assistance for elaboration of the details of the administrative and organizational structure for provisional administrative-territorial entity and its practical implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

In response to these positive developments, unfortunately we are witnessing deliberate attempts from the Tskhinvali regime to escalate the tension and impair stability in the region through number of provocative actions.

Since 11 May 2007, as reported by the OSCE Mission on Georgia, the provocative public statements by Kokoity, closing the roads, thus considerably restricting the freedom of movement, major firing at the Georgian police posts from the territories controlled by Kokoity regime caused increasing tensions in the region.

As a matter of special concern among these provocations, the Tskhinvali regime once again impeded the work of the OSCE monitors in the region on 12 May 2007, when a joint OSCE/JPKF patrol to the village of Avnevi was stopped even twice by the Tskhinvali regime OMON (special police) forces and were told that it could only proceed without the OSCE monitors.

In the light of this, the Georgian side urged the JPKF to conduct full monitoring of all areas of concern, accompanied by any necessary armed security escort from the Russian battalion, to establish temporary posts where necessary and deter possible

threats from the illegal armed formations of Tskhinvali regime. Unfortunately, the JPKF once again proved its inability to comply with these requirements, clearly defined by their mandate. In this context we underline that it is exactly the time for the Joint Peacekeeping Forces to prove their capability and immediately start implementing the main task under their mandate – full demilitarization of the region.

We confirm once again that despite the provocations by the Kokoity regime, the Georgian side will not spare efforts to keep up the peace process dynamics and will not allow deepening of confrontation.

Having all above developments in mind, the Georgian side is well aware of the risks and threats connected with the potential of destabilization in the region, thus is determined to proceed cautiously and with due consideration of existing realities, avoiding getting involved in any provocation.

As an important way to calming down the tension, the Georgian side undertakes active measures to engage Kokoity into dialogue and get him to the negotiations' table. Yesterday [on 16 May], upon notification of the Georgian side, the Russian Co-Chair of the JCC visited Georgia with an aim to agree on the urgent need for the early start of the full scale demilitarization process and, in this context, the decisive role of the Russian side as the peace process facilitator that has primary influence on Tskhinvali *de facto* authorities. The need for the implementation of the mandate by the JPKF has been underscored as a priority. After meeting with Georgian State Minister on Conflict Resolution Issues, the Russian Co-Chair of the JCC visited Tskhinvali for meeting with the Ossetian side.

Besides, the proposal of the President of Georgia to meet with Kokoity is still there. The Head of Provisional Administrative-Territorial Entity Dimitri Sanakoev also expressed the readiness and willingness to have negotiations with Kokoity to discuss ongoing problems from both sides.

Finally I would like to stress again – the Georgian side remains involved in negotiations within the framework of existing conflict settlement formats, with all stakeholders involved. We will continue the dialogue with all representatives of the community of Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, who has appropriate interest and will for result-oriented cooperation.

Thank You.