



ENGLISH only

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

of the Delegation of Georgia

at the 888th session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, November 17, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

On November 13, 2011 the Russian occupation forces and Russian-established regime in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia conducted another cynical act of the pseudo-democratic policy. The Russian Federation carried out the so called "presidential elections" and brought to Tskhinvali its own "observers" in yet another futile attempt to legitimize the outcomes of these "elections" and the ethnic cleansing of almost 2/3 of the local population.

Crimes committed by Russian occupants and their proxies have fundamentally distorted the demographics of Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, thus depriving IDPs and refugees of the right to return to their homes. At the same time human rights of the remaining population are violated on a daily basis by the occupation forces and no international observers are allowed to the occupied region to report on the situation in there. This region has turned into being as one of the military bases of the Russian Federation. In the existing reality these "elections" clearly illustrate a complete disregard of internationally accepted norms and principles and cannot be considered legitimate by any standard.

Georgia is grateful to the international community for its adequate assessment it has given to this another farce conducted in one of the occupied regions of Georgia. We should continue exerting pressure on Russia to start fulfilling its obligations under the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, join the rest of civilized world in respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty of its neighbor and cease the occupation of Georgia.

Thank You.