



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 844<sup>th</sup> Permanent Council on  
Conclusions and Follow-up of the OSCE Summit 2010  
Vienna 16 December, 2010***

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to greet you today at our usual meeting of the Permanent Council. Allow me to use this opportunity in order to share our point of view on the outcomes of the OSCE Astana Summit.

To elucidate my point of view, I would first like to underline what were the goals of the OSCE Astana Summit as well as what were our expectations towards this high level meeting of the Heads of States and Governments.

First and foremost, we all are aware that the OSCE is the most inclusive and comprehensive regional security organization in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area, devised to provide a unique forum for promoting open dialogue, preventing and settling conflicts and building mutual understanding and cooperation. As such, every OSCE summit carries the weight of responsibility to deliver on each of these directions.

The current Summit was supposed to take up one of the greatest burdens of this kind, granted the steady regress in terms of stability in the OSCE area, manifested by increased tensions. The war of August 2008, carried out by one OSCE participating State against another OSCE participating State gave an even heavier significance to the Astana Summit, augmenting the responsibility of each of us to address in an efficient manner the existing challenges.

As the OSCE Summit is not a frequent event our firm belief was that we should have seized the opportunity it afforded us and make substantial progress in terms of tackling imminent issues that have developed in the OSCE area.

Eleven years ago, at the last OSCE Summit in Istanbul, OSCE member states agreed upon a set of fundamental principles embodied in the Istanbul Summit Declaration and the Charter for European Security. Unfortunately, a decade later, the principles embodied in the Istanbul Summit Declaration and the Charter for European Security are still being violated within the OSCE area; certain States have reneged on the obligations undertaken in Istanbul – both with respect to Georgia and to other states.

Granted these challenges, from our perspective, our common mission at the Astana Summit was to agree on a set of concrete steps that would further strengthen OSCE as a true Security Community – one that is free of dividing lines, conflicts and spheres of influences; a community in which human rights are respected and people live in dignity, where there is mutual trust among states reinforced by a sense of common interest.

As the Summit preparations went on, considerable time and efforts were devoted to

the elaboration of the Action Plan. The basic purpose of the Action Plan was to address the common challenges and priorities in the OSCE area, and identify concrete steps aimed at achieving progress in all three dimensions of the OSCE. Naturally, among these, granted the current reality, addressing the existing conflicts was the principal focus of the Action Plan.

With that purpose in mind, we, in close cooperation with our partners- the U.S. and the EU identified several directions, which would have allowed us to make concrete steps towards fostering a political dialogue between Moscow and Tbilisi aimed at settling the outstanding security issues. Namely,

- Ensure the full implementation of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement;
- Improve the security, humanitarian and human rights situation, in particular with regards to the safe, dignified and voluntary return of IDPs and refugees;
- Renew our commitment to the Geneva Discussions and
- Restore a meaningful OSCE presence on the ground.

Unfortunately, these fundamental efforts on our behalf were given a cold shoulder by the Russian Federation which again came out with an un-constructive position ignoring our offer to initiate a political dialogue. Moreover, Russia was categorically opposed to any reference being made to Georgia in the Action Plan making it impossible to adopt the document.

This reality has once again proven the fact, that as long as the OSCE remains hostage to pretenses of one member state, it will remain in crisis, unable to respond to the existing security challenges in the OSCE area. Basically, due to the existing mechanism of decision making, we have failed to reinforce and reconfirm the existing mandate of the OSCE, including in the area of conflict prevention and settlement.

Moreover, adoption of the Commemorative document underwent in the context which to a certain extent has diluted the spirit of cooperation within the OSCE as we failed to overcome the lack of confidence among the participating States of the OSCE while instead, we have further widened the existing gap, giving the way to ever divergent security perceptions.

In reality, as we were unable to agree on the Action Plan, the Commemorative Declaration is insufficient to safeguard us from the deepening crisis, unless we make future steps, concrete and result oriented ones, to seal off the pattern of deteriorating security situation and devastation of fundamental principles of the OSCE.

From our perspective, by adopting the Astana Commemorative Declaration we have sent a misleading message to the international community as if the OSCE has a monolithic understanding of its fundamental principles, whereas, in reality, there is a huge disagreement over them.

However, we always come out of the position that there is yet a hope, granted contingent efforts, that the situation can be improved. Based on this very conviction, we believe that the Astana Commemorative Declaration can still serve as an instrument for making a further progress in reaching our basic priorities. We are hoping that the future Chairmanship will manage to build on this opportunity.

We thank the Kazakh Chairmanship-in-Office for presenting its vision regarding the follow-up of the Astana Summit. We consider that concrete steps should be made towards settling the existing conflict in Georgia as well as in other participating States of the OSCE in a peaceful manner through the dialogue on the basis of the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, in particular, the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized.

It is our perspective that developing and adopting the kind of Action Plan, which strengthens the commitment of the OSCE participating States to the fundamental principles and rules of international law and identifies the ways to solve the existing

problems in the OSCE area, remains a priority. We should at each opportunity seize the moment and make innovative and courageous steps that will bring us closer to the genuine unity and peace in the OSCE area.

Georgia is ready to continue active cooperation in the framework of the OSCE in close cooperation with the Lithuanian Chairmanship and other partner countries, in order to make concrete steps towards settling the outstanding issues.

Thank you!