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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1559th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 March 2026

**On the 66th round of the International Discussions on Transcaucasia**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation welcomes the 66th round of the International Discussions on Security and Stability in Transcaucasia, which was held in Geneva on 18 and 19 March this year. We consistently advocate for the continuation of the negotiation mechanism's work with a view to achieving a post-conflict settlement in Transcaucasia. In this context, we consider the most important task of the International Discussions to be facilitating the re-establishment of relations between Georgia, on the one hand, and Abkhazia and South Ossetia, on the other.

In practical terms, one of the most important steps in this direction should be for Georgia to give guarantees for the non-use of force against Abkhazia and South Ossetia, guarantees enshrined in a legally binding agreement. The urgency of concluding such a document is increasing against the backdrop of the attempts by certain external forces to destabilize the situation in Georgia, including by exploiting the revanchist sentiments that persist there.

Our premise is that the smooth operation of the International Discussions following the hiatus in 2022, as well as the effective functioning of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Ergnet and the dedicated exchange links, or hotlines, set up within the framework of the Discussions, help to reduce tensions on the ground. The resumption of the activities of a similar mechanism in the Abkhazian town of Gal, as well as the launch of practical work on the demarcation of the border between Georgia and the young Transcaucasian republics, could further strengthen security in the region.

We are compelled to note that the negotiation process on the humanitarian aspects of the International Discussions' agenda remains at a standstill. Unfortunately, Georgia continues to adhere to a counterproductive policy of politicizing these issues and shows no sign of abandoning the practice of submitting a resolution on internally displaced persons and refugees every year for discussion at the United Nations General Assembly. We call upon our Georgian colleagues to get the consideration of these issues back on a professional footing and to focus on discussing them exclusively within the framework of the International Discussions – a platform to which representatives of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have access.

Thank you for your attention.