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PC.DEL/1263/25  
20 November 2025

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1543rd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

20 November 2025

**On the 65th round of the International Discussions on Transcaucasia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the 65th round of the International Discussions on Security and Stability in Transcaucasia, which was held in Geneva on 11 and 12 November. We consider these discussions to be the sole platform for direct dialogue on issues pertaining to post-conflict resolution between the Georgian Government on the one hand and the authorities in Sukhum and Tskhinval on the other. Despite the challenging global context, meetings in this format are being held on a regular basis, demonstrating the “all-weather” nature of the format.

In this regard, we should like to emphasize the need to take practical steps to achieve the priority goal of signing a legally binding agreement on Georgia’s non-use of force against Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This step would demonstrate the Georgian leadership’s determination to translate its conciliatory rhetoric concerning these young Transcaucasian republics into practical action and would also contribute to building trust in the region.

The urgency of concluding such a document is increasing in the context of the attempts by certain external forces to draw Georgia into their military plans by exploiting revanchist sentiments in the country. First and foremost, this concerns the continuing desire to persuade the Georgian leadership to open a “second front” against Russia. The ongoing efforts to involve Georgia in NATO’s military initiatives in the Transcaucasian region are not helping to reduce tensions in the region either.

Against this backdrop, we note the relatively calm situation in the border areas between Georgia and Abkhazia and between Georgia and South Ossetia. The hotlines established within the framework of the International Discussions on Transcaucasia, as well as the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in the village of Ergnet, make a significant contribution to maintaining stability on the ground. The resumption of the activities of a similar mechanism in the Abkhazian town of Gal, as well as the launch of border demarcation and delimitation work, could further strengthen security.

Unfortunately, Georgia’s unwillingness to abandon the counterproductive practice of submitting a draft resolution on displaced persons every year for discussion at the United Nations General Assembly, in

which, for well-known reasons, representatives of Abkhazia and South Ossetia are unable to participate, does nothing to contribute to the rapprochement of the positions of the participating States. Once again, we call upon the Georgian representatives to refrain from politicizing this sensitive humanitarian issue and instead focus on practical co-operation on this topic within the framework of the International Discussions on Transcaucasia.

In general, we should like to ask our Georgian partners to stop using international platforms for the staging of political performances and to focus instead on working with the Abkhazian and South Ossetian partners to find mutually acceptable solutions to the practical issues involved in establishing good-neighbourly relations within the Sukhum-Tbilisi-Tskhinval triangle.

Thank you for your attention.