



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement on the 54th round of the Geneva International Discussions

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
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to the 1340-th meeting of the Permanent Council,
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Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine fully aligns itself with the statement delivered under this current issue by the Delegation of the European Union. At the same time, I would also like to add some remarks in the national capacity.

The outcomes of the 54th round of the Geneva International Discussions clearly show that despite overall security situation on the ground remains relatively stable, the conflict affected population in Georgia keeps suffering from further deteriorating humanitarian situation on the Russia-occupied territories of Georgia as well as from illegal detentions and restrictions of freedom of movement.

This situation is being further aggravated by Russia, raising new and new artificial barriers along the occupation line, where its occupation forces continue illegally apprehending the people who try to overcome them.

In this regard we call on Russia to release Irakli Bebuia and other illegally detained Georgian citizens immediately and stop this maleficent practice on the occupation line.

The GID platform is the very place for finding decisions to problems of the conflict affected people on the ground. But having yet again walked out of the negotiations instead of discussing issues related to internally displaced persons and refugees, Russia and its proxies showed to everyone their undiluted negligence towards the aftertime of these people.

We regret that the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism remains suspended since 2018. Its operation needs to be restored as soon as possible without any preconditions.

The root cause of all mentioned humanitarian challenges lies in the fact that the OSCE participating State, the Russian Federation, has partially occupied the territory of another participating State - Georgia. For 13 years already Moscow has been destabilizing the situation in this country in an attempt to derail Georgia's democratic development and its European and Euro-Atlantic integration. It is obvious, that full and unconditional de-occupation of Georgian territories by Russia is the only and inevitable way to reach progress in conflict resolution, ensure human rights and freedoms and provide for stability and prosperity in the region.

Meanwhile the Russian Federation keeps implementing its illegal activities aimed at further militarization and de-facto annexation of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali. Moscow also doesn't stop in its attempt to unilaterally define the Georgian-Russian state border along the segment of the mentioned occupied Georgian territories, intensifying the efforts to incorporate a part of Aibga village of Gagra District into Krasnodar Krai.

Russia's destructive initiatives on the temporarily occupied territories of

Georgia namely the so-called programme on creation of a common socio-economic space, signing of so-called treaty on dual citizenship as well as recent illegal holding of the Russian Parliamentary Elections in Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions are clear violations of the international law and Georgian sovereignty over these regions.

Moscow adheres to the similar hybrid obstructive tactics in the temporarily occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol of Ukraine, fuelling the two conflicts in the OSCE area it had sparked to reach some doubtful geopolitical goals.

Madam Chairperson,

The progress of politico-diplomatic efforts to solve both the Russian-Georgian and the Russian-Ukrainian conflicts totally depends on the political will and readiness by the Russian Federation to restore its real not pretended respect to the norms and principles of the international law in general and to the core OSCE principles and commitments in particular.

In this vein we encourage Russia to reciprocate Georgia's constructive approach upon peaceful resolution of the Russian-Georgian conflict by affirmation and implementation of the non-use of force commitments and creating necessary conditions for establishment of international security arrangements on the ground.

Ukraine calls on the Russian Federation to fulfil its obligations under the 2008 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement and withdraw its armed formations and occupation administrations from the temporarily occupied territories of Georgia.

Practical steps by the Russian Federation aimed at implementation of the Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case concerning the armed conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation in August 2008 and its consequences would be another instrumental Moscow's contribution to the conflict resolution efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Ukraine's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.