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## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on the Situation in Georgia**

As delivered by Political Counselor, Samuel C. Laeuchli  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 8, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the Georgian Government's decision to hold early presidential elections and a referendum on the timing of parliamentary elections. We hope these measures will reverse the damage resulting from the Georgian Government's declaration of a state of emergency on November 7. We urge the Government of Georgia to lift the state of emergency and restore all media broadcasts. We call on all parties to maintain calm, respect rule of law, and address their differences through serious discussions to strengthen Georgia's democratic political system. These discussions should take place in a spirit of compromise and in support of Georgia's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and commitment to human rights.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.