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Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ADDRESS BY H.E. ZURAB NOGHAI DELI,  
PRIME MINISTER OF GEORGIA  
575<sup>TH</sup> (SPECIAL) PLENARY MEETING OF PERMANENT COUNCIL  
27 OCTOBER 2005**

Canada joins other participating States in welcoming the Prime Minister of Georgia, H.E. Zurab Noghaidei, to this special meeting of the Permanent Council. We appreciate the opportunity to hear directly from the Prime Minister on the many developments taking place in Georgia and specifically on the new conflict settlement plan.

The Permanent Council recently heard from the OSCE Head of Mission in Georgia, Ambassador Reeves, on recent incidents in the zone of conflict in South Ossetia, and he shared with us an increased concern about the fragile security situation there. Canada believes that full implementation of the demilitarisation agreements agreed between the sides would extensively support the peace process, and we call upon all parties to make progress in this regard.

In this same vein, Canada joins other delegations in urging all sides to play constructive, cooperative roles in the interest of reaching a political settlement to this conflict.

Canada supports peaceful negotiations, based on respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia. To this end, we appreciate the Prime Minister's explanation of the most recent initiative of President Saakashvili, aimed at the peaceful resolution of the South Ossetian conflict. We look forward to learning more details about this conflict settlement plan, especially in the areas in which the OSCE could be potentially involved. We hope that this plan will provide new impetus to the peace process, and we welcome the resumption of dialogue between the sides earlier this week as a positive sign in this regard.

Canada is confident that respect for democratic values, the rule of law and human rights will also provide needed support to peaceful conflict resolution. To this end, Canada has provided \$2.3 million CDN dollars to the Samtskhe-Javakheti language project of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. This is in addition to Canadian funding for the ENVSEC initiative and Canadian funding to ODIHR activities in Georgia.

Finally, Canada welcomes progress achieved in the fulfilment of the agreement reached in May this year between the Russian Federation and Georgia on the withdrawal of remaining Russian military bases from the territory of Georgia. While we welcome this progress as an important step towards the fulfilment of the Istanbul commitments, we urge both sides to take all necessary measures to implement fully all obligations stipulated in the Joint Statement by the two Ministers for Foreign Affairs.