



United States Mission to the OSCE

On the 61st Round of the Geneva International Discussions on the Conflict in Georgia

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 4, 2024

The United States takes note of the 61st round of the Geneva International Discussions on the conflict in Georgia, which took place June 25-26. We support Georgia's long-standing commitment not to use force to resolve this conflict.

The United States calls upon Russia, as a party to the conflict, to immediately fulfill its obligation under the 2008 ceasefire agreement to withdraw its troops to pre-conflict positions. Russia's ongoing occupation of 20 percent of Georgia's territory and its unilateral construction of so-called border structures along the administrative boundary lines undermine Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Russia's invasion of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, like its unprovoked war against Ukraine, is a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and contravenes the Helsinki Final Act. We again take this opportunity to condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its invasion and occupation of Georgian territory.

We call for crossing points to be fully reopened along the administrative boundary lines, and for Russia to allow unrestricted access for humanitarian assistance delivery, which would help conflict-affected communities. Regrettably, the issues of the return of internally displaced people, water, and gas could not be discussed due to a Russia-led walkout. We support using the Ergneti Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, which defuses tensions at the local level and delivers concrete results to people living within this conflict-affected area. We call for the resumption of the Gali IPRM without preconditions as soon as possible.

Madam Chair, the United States reiterates our strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders. We fully support Georgia as it pursues its Euro-Atlantic aspirations and its EU accession.

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