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Official Records

President: Mr. Yang (Cameroon)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 33

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Report of the Secretary-General (A/79/892)

Draft resolution (A/79/L.90)

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Georgia to introduce draft resolution A/79/L.90.

Mr. Bakradze (Georgia): It is an honour to once again address the Assembly on behalf of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees who were forcibly uprooted from Georgia's occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia. I stand here before the Assembly today to seek its valuable support for draft resolution A/79/L.90, entitled "Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia".

The core objective of this draft resolution remains unchanged — to address the humanitarian plight of IDPs and refugees who were forced to flee from their homes during the successive waves of ethnic cleansing starting in the 1990s, culminating in the full-scale military aggression against Georgia in August 2008. To this day, they remain deprived of their fundamental right to return to their places of origin in safety and with dignity, as well as of their property rights.

Since its first adoption, in 2008, the resolution has garnered increasing support from the international community, with a growing number of favourable votes and co-sponsors. Today the draft resolution is co-sponsored by 64 United Nations States Members from all regions of the world, which is a testament to the shared commitment to the universally recognized principles enshrined in the text.

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The text of the draft resolution before the Assembly is based on the United Nations Guiding Principles of Internal Displacement and represents a country-specific application of the biannual consensual resolution, entitled “Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons” (resolution 78/205).

The draft resolution aims to reaffirm the right of return, in safety and with dignity, of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, women, children and elderly persons who were forced to abruptly leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere; to stress the need to respect the property rights of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflict; to reaffirm the unacceptability of forced demographic changes; and to ensure unimpeded access to humanitarian activities to all internally displaced persons, refugees and other persons residing in conflict-affected areas throughout Georgia.

Beyond that, the draft resolution also highlights the vital importance of the Geneva International Discussions, the only negotiations format on the matter. It calls on all participants, including Georgia, to intensify their efforts to establish a durable peace, to commit to enhanced confidence-building measures and to take immediate steps to ensure respect for human rights and create favourable security conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin.

Furthermore, the draft resolution calls for the elaboration of a concrete timetable to ensure the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all IDPs and for the reporting instrument to be maintained in order to keep the international community informed about the implementation of the draft resolution through the annual reports of the Secretary-General. The most recent report of the Secretary-General, under sub-section A “Scope of displacement, return and local integration” of section III “Right of return”, repeats the same statement as in previous years,

“No major changes were observed during the reporting period with regard to internally displaced persons and refugees exercising their right to return” (*A/79/892, para. 13*).

The reality on the ground in Georgia’s occupied regions remains dire: people endure continuous deprivation of their basic human rights, as well as isolation and discrimination. These facts have been systematically reflected in the annual reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, based on the Human Rights Council resolution 57/33, entitled “Cooperation with Georgia”, which speaks about the various forms of discrimination that ethnic Georgians continue to endure, in both occupied regions, including violations of the right to life, deprivation of liberty, arbitrary detention, infringement of the right to property, violations of the right to health and restrictions on education in one’s native language. In the latest report, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reiterates his recommendations to “promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of the violation of the right to life, torture and ill-treatment, and intensify efforts to establish accountability”, as well as to “end the practice of arbitrary deprivation of liberty”.

Notwithstanding that grim background, the Government of Georgia remains firmly committed to the effective implementation of the fully human-centric policy of reconciliation and engagement that is based on depoliticized approaches and efficient instruments to reach the goals of peacebuilding and confidence-building between war-torn communities and to ensure decent living conditions for the conflict-affected people pending a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The Government is proceeding with the active implementation of the peace initiative A Step to a Better Future. Over the years, we have been encouraged by the growing interest shown by people in the occupied regions in the opportunities and State services designed specifically for

them. That trend represents a key milestone in advancing our strategic objectives of reconciliation and re-engagement.

Pending a final resolution of the conflict, the Government of Georgia continues to make concerted efforts to promote the socioeconomic integration of internally displaced persons and to improve their living conditions. Significant efforts have been undertaken to provide internally displaced persons with decent, durable housing and financial assistance based on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Guiding Principles on Durable Housing Solutions.

As stated earlier, the draft resolution emphasizes the importance of the Geneva International Discussions, the only format of negotiations between Georgia and the Russian Federation to address the return of IDPs and refugees to their homes.

Up to 100 resolutions, presidential statements and communiqués have unanimously reaffirmed “the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders”. The Security Council resolutions between 1993 until 2009, on a continuous basis, stressed the necessity “to address seriously the need for a dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees, including their security and human rights concerns”.

Let me be very clear: this draft resolution is not directed against any party, nor does it seek to assign blame for the circumstances that led to the forced displacement. When introducing this draft resolution every year, we leave politics aside and focus exclusively on the humanitarian dimension of the problem. The text of the draft resolution remains unchanged, because its provisions continue to remain unfulfilled. The deliberate emphasis on the humanitarian aspect of this issue reflects my delegation’s firm intention to avoid political speculation, particularly when the fundamental rights of displaced persons are at stake. In this context, we call on all Member States to remain principled and steadfast in their commitment and to stand in support of universally recognized rights until the full implementation of the resolution is achieved.

The draft resolution before the Assembly (A/79/L.90), entitled “Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia”, under agenda item 33, entitled “Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development”, is sponsored by 64 United Nations Member States, including Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, the Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tonga, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Vanuatu.

By supporting the cause of Georgian internally displaced persons and refugees, Members are standing in solidarity with all displaced persons worldwide, as the hardships that they endure are universal regardless of their place of origin.

Mr. Paulauskas (Lithuania): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Baltic and the Nordic States, namely, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Lithuania.

Since Russia's war against Georgia in 2008, the territorial integrity of Georgia has been continuously violated by Russia, while thousands of people remain displaced from their homes. We continue to be seriously concerned about the unresolved situation of internally displaced persons and refugees, which is negatively affecting their rights under international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

As noted in the Secretary-General's report (A/79/892), as of January 2025, 299,172 individuals remain registered as internally displaced persons in Georgia, with the largest concentrations in Tbilisi and Zugdidi/Samegrelo. Despite numerous General Assembly resolutions, no major progress has been made regarding the right of return for internally displaced persons and refugees from the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. Russia and the de facto authorities of those regions continue to deny returns for ethnic Georgians from returning and have implemented discriminatory policies, including defining displaced Georgians as foreigners or stateless persons and issuing restrictive residency permits. Prolonged displacement has led to intergenerational challenges and is exacerbated by inadequate living conditions, limited livelihood opportunities and substandard health, education and sanitation services. Durable housing solutions, as part of a comprehensive approach to social support, remain critical, alongside adherence to the principles of voluntary return and property restitution.

The European Court of Human Rights, in its 9 April 2024 judgment, established that the administrative practices by Russia, stemming from the borderization between the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia on the one hand, and territory controlled by the Georgian Government on the other, has resulted in multiple cases of violations of international law. Regrettably, no international human rights monitoring mechanisms have been able to achieve unrestricted access to assess the situation in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. Humanitarian access remains constrained owing to borderization and administrative obstacles, thereby hindering contact with the families and access to essential services. We call for immediate, full, safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to the affected population. We also call for a more proactive approach by various international organizations. There shall be no legitimization of the current situation.

We reiterate our support for the Geneva international discussions process, established pursuant to the 12 August 2008 six-point agreement, and regret the repeated disengagement by Russian participants in those discussions. In that context, we welcome the Georgian Government's commitment to provide internally displaced persons with the necessary assistance.

We must also reiterate serious concern about the significant backsliding on democracy in Georgia. We are seeing a constant deterioration of the situation, especially when it comes to the attempt by the Georgian authorities to silence independent voices, restrict freedoms and shrink the space for independent media organizations and civil society, undermining their important role in confidence-building and peacebuilding. Those actions seriously undermine human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We continue to view the situation in Georgia within the broader international context of Russia's unjustified, illegal and full-scale invasion of Ukraine and maintenance of an illegal military presence in Moldova and Georgia. Those actions by Russia represent a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Nordic and Baltic States reiterate their full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia within their internationally recognized borders.

The draft resolution we are adopting today reconfirms the need to continue working for the protection of and assistance to those who have been forcibly displaced and have not been able to exercise their right to return home safely and in dignity for more than a decade. We underscore the importance of the United Nations continuous attention to this issue. Therefore, our countries will be voting in favour of the draft resolution, and we call on all Member States to do the same.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer.

Mrs. Samson (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

The EU reaffirms its unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. The EU remains committed to supporting peacebuilding and conflict resolution in Georgia, including through the work of the EU's Special Representative, including as co-chair of the Geneva international discussions and the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia.

The EU expresses its concern about human rights violations in the occupied breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and the persistent humanitarian challenges faced by their conflict-affected populations. The European Union calls for the ensuring of full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to support those populations, in particular in the occupied breakaway region of South Ossetia. In that respect, the EU recalls that humanitarian access is stipulated in the six-point agreement of 12 August 2008. The EU reiterates its serious concern regarding recent developments in Georgia. The EU underlines the importance of peacebuilding activities implemented by non-governmental organizations and civil society actors across the divides and of continuing in that vein so as to ensure an enabling environment for civil society organizations.

The EU underlines the importance of the right of refugees and internally displaced persons to choose a durable solution, including voluntary, safe and dignified return and the ability to exercise property rights. The EU regrets that, thus far, no progress has been achieved on those issues and recalls that addressing refugee and internally displaced persons (IDPs) issues is a core task of the Geneva international discussions. The EU therefore calls upon the participants in the Geneva international discussions to engage in genuine dialogue on the various displacements that have taken place over the past three decades, as well as on the partial return of IDPs, with a view to enhancing their protection and to seeking pragmatic approaches and durable solutions, including further returns. The EU welcomes the efforts of the Georgian Government to find durable housing solutions for IDPs and promote their socioeconomic integration. We encourage the Government to continue IDP inclusion and prioritization in the national development plan and to make further efforts to improve their living conditions and livelihoods.

Mr. Gort (Canada) (*spoke in French*): I have the pleasure of delivering this statement on behalf of my country, Canada, and Australia and New Zealand (CANZ) on Georgia's draft resolution entitled "Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia" (A/79/L.90).

CANZ is pleased to sponsor draft resolution A/79/L.90. We call for the protection of democratic principles and values in Georgia, support the right to freedom of expression and to freedom of assembly for all Georgians and demand that the

perpetrators of violence against those who exercise their rights peacefully be held accountable for their acts.

We also unequivocally support the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We encourage all Member States to support the draft resolution, which addresses a global humanitarian aid and human rights challenge.

(spoke in English)

Globally, CANZ recognizes the right of displaced people to a safe, voluntary, dignified and unhindered return to their homes, in accordance with international law. Similarly, CANZ considers that forced demographic changes, prohibited under international law, are unacceptable. Within Georgia, we strongly support the rights of those people displaced from Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia to safely return to their homes. CANZ strongly echoes the Secretary-General's call, expressed in his most recent report on the situation (A/79/892), for unimpeded access to be granted to United Nations and international non-governmental organization staff working in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Lastly, CANZ calls out Russia for its role in creating instability in Georgia. Russia has consistently carried out acts of aggression against its neighbours, including its illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine, which CANZ categorically condemns. CANZ reiterates its support for the Charter of the United Nations and for the territorial integrity and political independence of all United Nations Member States.

Mr. Mikanagi (Japan): Japan is a proud sponsor of the draft resolution entitled "Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia" (A/79/L.90).

Japan firmly supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. All internally displaced persons and refugees residing in conflict-affected areas of Georgia have the right to return to their homes. Efforts must be made to establish sustainable peace to ensure that their human rights are respected and the return of all internally displaced persons and refugees is safe, dignified and unhindered.

Japan reiterates the urgent need for unimpeded access for humanitarian activities to all internally displaced persons, refugees and other persons residing in all conflict-affected areas in Georgia. We are deeply concerned about the continued suffering caused by prolonged forced displacement since the military operations in 2008. We strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change internationally recognized borders by force. We stand in solidarity with the people of Georgia. The protection of internally displaced persons and refugees is a responsibility that the international community bears towards the most vulnerable in conflict-affected regions. In such fragile situations, it is civilians who suffer the most. Japan strives to build a world in which the dignity of every human being is protected.

Ms. White (United Kingdom): Nearly 17 years on from the Russian Federation's military invasion of the sovereign State of Georgia, we remain deeply concerned about the Russian presence in the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Russia continues to undertake illegal activities that prolong and deepen the conflict. We condemn the launch of direct flights between Russia and Abkhazia in May, in clear violation of Georgian and international law, as the latest in a series of steps designed to extend Russian control over Georgia's regions. We also remain deeply concerned by the human rights situation in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, including arbitrary arrests, restrictions on free movement and so-called "borderization" processes. We call for improved access for international organizations operating to support humanitarian development and confidence-building efforts that seek to resolve the conflict.

The United Kingdom welcomes Georgia's clear, stated position that it cannot restore diplomatic relations with Russia so long as Russia continues to violate the country's territorial integrity, and we reaffirm our support for Georgia's sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders. We urge Russia to end its illegal presence within Georgia immediately and to reverse its recognition of the so-called "independence" of those breakaway regions. We reiterate our steadfast support for a peaceful resolution to the conflict that is based on full respect for the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and international law and that will allow all internally displaced persons a safe and dignified return to their homes.

The United Kingdom is a long-standing supporter of this annual draft resolution, which is a vital mechanism for demonstrating solidarity with the Georgian people and all internally displaced people worldwide. We therefore urge all Member States to vote in favour of this draft resolution.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/79/L.90.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to the delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of A/79/L.90: Australia, Cabo Verde, Congo, Mexico, New Zealand, Palau, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine and Vanuatu.

The President: Before giving the floor for explanations of vote before the voting, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mrs. Solorzano Cavalieri (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its strong determination to preserve, promote and defend the Charter of the United Nations, as well as its unwavering commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes, and supports all diplomatic efforts to that end.

In that regard, we wish to express our profound concern about the growing tendency to attempt to exploit the General Assembly in order to attack full-fledged Member States and, even more egregiously, to use it as a platform for promoting draft resolutions that lack the necessary consensus. Far from fostering an environment conducive to dialogue and negotiation, this only deepens tensions, widens divisions and further complicates regional dynamics and situations.

That is why, in line with the principles of its Bolivarian diplomacy of peace, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela respectfully calls on the sponsors of draft resolution A/79/L.90 to refrain from politicized approaches and to instead promote both confidence-building measures and a truly constructive approach to the issue. In addition, we are of the view that the Geneva international discussions on security and stability in the South Caucasus provide an appropriate forum for forging ahead, using political dialogue, diplomatic negotiation and cooperation, in order to find lasting solutions to the common challenges of the region, including those of a humanitarian nature.

We hope that, for the sake of peace and the well-being of all our peoples, sooner rather than later, the General Assembly will correct course and return to the practice of consensus-based decision-making through genuinely transparent and inclusive processes, in which all views, concerns and input are duly taken into account with a view to reaching concerted solutions to issues of common interest to the international community as a whole.

Ms. Zabolotskaya (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): On the night of 7 to 8 August 2008, the Mikheil Saakashvili regime attacked South Ossetia, violating all existing agreements and destroying years-long efforts to establish peaceful dialogue. During the attack, the positions of Russian peacekeepers were also stormed. The assault resulted in numerous casualties among the residents of South Ossetia and Russian military personnel, as well as an exodus of refugees. Its unprovoked nature was later confirmed, in particular in the report of the international commission of inquiry into the causes of the conflict in the Caucasus, established under the auspices of the European Union and headed by Heidi Tagliavini. Allow me to quote in that connection the statement by the ruling Georgian Dream party on the events of 2008:

“Most of Georgian society rightly doubts Saakashvili’s suitability. However, the fact is that Saakashvili’s venture in August 2008 was not the result of a mental imbalance on his part but the outcome of external directives and well-planned treachery. If lasting peace and stability are to be brought to our country, a public trial should be held as a matter of urgency so that our people can find out, once and for all, who perpetrated this treacherous crime against our country and our people.”

I would like to underscore that that was a statement made by the political council of the ruling party of Georgia, and, in that regard, I would like to draw attention to the list of sponsors of today’s draft resolution (A/79/L.90). Most of them are Western countries, and perhaps that is where attention should be focused, because it is hard to believe that European countries, which look on indifferently as thousands of refugees die in the Mediterranean Sea, have suddenly become interested in the fate of refugees from Georgia and Ossetia.

Returning to the situation of August 2008, Russia’s decisive actions, namely, the operation to compel Georgia to peace, spared the South Ossetian people from death. In order to protect the peoples of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, our country recognized the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia on 26 August 2008. The Saakashvili regime, in carrying out the attack, undid all the international efforts of previous years towards a political solution to both the Georgian-South Ossetian and the Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts, scuppered all the progress made, including the negotiation formats and mechanisms existing at the time. As a result, all the thematic documents that predated 8 August 2008 lost their meaning and significance, having been adopted in entirely different geopolitical contexts.

That is why, in August 2008, a new negotiation format was launched — the Geneva international discussions on security and stability in the Transcaucasus. That platform offers unique opportunities, as it allows for Georgia to engage in direct dialogue with Abkhazia and South Ossetia on all issues, including humanitarian ones related to refugees and internally displaced persons. The international discussions are held regularly and could have yielded regular outcomes, including on the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons, but the draft resolution that Georgia introduces on annual basis and that is under consideration today has stood in the way. The draft resolution, as its title suggests, is meant to contribute to resolving the problem of internally displaced persons and refugees in the region. However, its true aim is entirely different. By submitting this draft resolution to the General Assembly, Georgia is trying to shift attention from the fact that it was its own actions that caused the influx of refugees. The text speaks of so-called “forced demographic changes”, but fails to mention that those violent actions were taken by Saakashvili.

Equally important, Georgia knows very well that the condition for dialogue between South Ossetia and Abkhazia, within the framework of the Geneva International Discussions on security and stability in the South Caucasus, requires the rejection of this politicized resolution introduced in a forum where neither South Ossetia nor Abkhazia are represented. Therefore, by submitting this draft resolution,

Georgia is knowingly impeding trilateral dialogue and a real solution to the issues of refugees and IDPs.

Accordingly, the goals of the draft resolution under consideration today are purely political. They are also directly contrary to those set out in the text. This draft resolution is being adopted in order to block genuine dialogue with South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

In that regard, allow me to quote the joint statement of the delegations of South Ossetia and the Republic of Abkhazia at the Geneva International Discussions.

“The text imposed on the international community is silent about the fact that the emergence of these refugees and displaced persons is directly related to the wars unleashed by Georgia against South Ossetia and Abkhazia. It fails to mention that out of more than 100,000 Ossetians who fled ethnic cleansing on the territory of Georgia and found refuge in South Ossetia and the Russian Federation, only very few managed to return to their homes.”

“The text of the draft resolution is also silent about the fact that the Governments of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, of their own volition, have helped tens of thousands of Georgian refugees return to their homes. The text of the draft resolution submitted by Georgia not only disregards current political realities, in particular, the fact that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are now independent States, but also demonstrates Georgia’s complete lack of desire to resolve complex humanitarian problems.

“It is abundantly clear that the resolution that Georgia pushes through from year to year not only fails to improve the situation of refugees from Georgia, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, but also undermines the Geneva International Discussions, which continue to be the only platform where representatives of South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Georgia have the opportunity to discuss a broad range of current issues, including the issue of refugees and IDPs.

“The main key to resolving the refugee problem lies not in diplomatic trickery, aimed at using the resolution as propaganda, but in abandoning confrontational approaches and signing a legally binding agreement on the non-use of force and, ultimately, a peace treaty between Georgia, on the one hand, and the Republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, on the other.

“Georgia’s politicization of the refugee issues undermines work on this track within the framework of the Geneva International Discussions. Since Georgia prefers to discuss issues related to the situation of refugees and IDPs in such an authoritative international organ as the General Assembly, South Ossetia and Abkhazia insists on their right to participate in the discussion of this problem within the walls of the United Nations. As long as political games around the refugee issue continue behind the backs of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, there is no point in discussing this problem within the framework of the Geneva International Discussions.”

Therefore, if Georgia truly cares, as it claims, about the fate of refugees and IDPs, then it must stop politicizing the suffering of victims of the aggressive policies of the Georgian Saakashvili authorities, withdraw the draft resolution and engage in substantive dialogue with South Ossetia and Abkhazia within the framework of the Geneva International Discussions on security and stability in the South Caucasus. A resolution adopted in a forum where neither South Ossetia nor Abkhazia are represented is an attempt to cover up the truth and derail negotiations.

We call on all delegations that support dialogue, including on the issue of refugees and IDPs between Georgia, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, to vote against the draft resolution.

In the light of that, the Russian Federation will vote against draft resolution A/79/L.90, and we urge all other delegations to do the same.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/79/L.90, entitled “Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia”.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia

Against:

Belarus, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen

Draft resolution A/79/L.90 was adopted by 107 votes to 9, with 49 abstentions (resolution 79/292).

The President: Before giving the floor for explanations of vote after the voting, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mrs. Mimran Rosenberg (Israel): I would like to make this explanation of vote regarding resolution 79/292, just adopted, under the title “Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia”.

Israel's principled position remains one of full and unequivocal support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, with regard to the regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali. We take note of the Secretary General's report (A/79/892), which outlines Georgia's efforts to improve the living conditions of internally displaced persons and its continued commitment to de-escalation mechanisms and dialogue frameworks. We share the aspiration to reach a mutually agreed solution based on the internationally recognized frameworks currently under discussion. Israel will continue to support initiatives aimed at promoting confidence-building measures and resilience, including through joint capacity-building projects in areas such as agriculture. We believe that the path to resolving long-standing conflict lies in negotiating a mutually agreed approach.

Mr. França Danese (Brazil): Brazil abstained in the voting on resolution 79/292, concerning internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We remain of the view that the General Assembly should not prejudge or interfere in the course of specific negotiations still underway within the framework of the Geneva International Discussions. That said, we regret the continued lack of substantive progress on humanitarian issues in those discussions. The absence of meaningful engagement across successive negotiation rounds undermines confidence in the process and weakens the prospects for lasting peace.

We therefore join other members of the international community in urging the parties to engage substantively in a constructive and results-oriented dialogue in good faith, adopt confidence-building measures and fully uphold their commitments under the Geneva framework.

Brazil's abstention is not to be — and must not be — interpreted as indifference to the plight of internally displaced persons in Georgia. On the contrary, we stand in full solidarity with those affected and recall that international humanitarian law provides for the right of displaced persons to return voluntarily in safety and dignity to their homes or places of habitual residence as soon as conditions permit.

My delegation reiterates Brazil's unwavering support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, as reaffirmed in Security Council resolutions 1716 (2006) and 1808 (2008).

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote after the voting.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 33?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.