

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
26 December 2013

Original: English

**General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session**
Agenda item 34**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security
and development****Security Council
Sixty-eighth year****Identical letters dated 25 December 2013 from the Permanent
Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement dated 18 December 2013 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the twenty-sixth round of the Geneva International Discussions (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the identical letters dated 25 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement dated 18 December 2013 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the twenty-sixth round of the Geneva International Discussions

The twenty-sixth round of the Geneva International Discussions was held on 18 December 2013. The participants in the Geneva Discussions took part, in their individual capacity, in the two Working Groups, the first focusing on security and stability in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, and the second on the issues related to the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their original residence. The discussions were co-chaired by the representatives of the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and attended by the participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The Head of the Provisional Administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District and the Chair of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, as well as the representatives of the Sokhumi and Tskhinvali occupation regimes, took part in the twenty-sixth round of the Geneva Discussions.

Within the framework of Working Group I, the participants from Georgia raised serious concerns over the continuous large-scale installation of barbwire fences and embankments by the Russian military forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali and Abkhazia regions, in a flagrant breach of the norms and principles of international law and the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement. Since November 2013, the installation of artificial obstacles has been resumed with a renewed vigour in the Kareli and Gori districts, after having been suspended as a result of steady international support and condemnation of the Russian Federation's illegal activities on the sovereign territory of Georgia. The participants from Georgia once again called upon the Russian Federation to reverse these illegal activities and consider the human tragedy for the local population caused by such a destructive policy. In the course of the meeting, the alarming security situation on the ground — continued build-up of the military infrastructure, and increased practices of detention and kidnapping, as well as other alarming incidents — was brought to the attention of the co-Chairs. The existing security context underscores the necessity of a timely resumption of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism without preconditions and in its full composition. The participants from Georgia have once again stressed the urgent need for and particular importance of enabling the European Union Monitoring Mission to fully implement its mandate in Georgia and ensuring the Mission's access to both regions.

During the twenty-sixth round, the participants addressed one of the central items in the agenda, pertaining to non-use of force, and engaged in the drafting process, at the expert level, for a draft statement by the participants of the Geneva International Discussions initiated by the co-Chairs. The drafting session, which was held in a businesslike environment, once again demonstrated a fundamental divergence in positions on the key aspects of the document. Moscow's failure to reciprocate Georgia's unilateral legally binding commitment to non-use of force is

leading the process towards a deadlock. Unfortunately, during the twenty-sixth round of the discussions, the Russian Federation once again openly refused to undertake a reciprocal legally binding non-use of force commitment with relation to Georgia.

In the framework of Working Group I, the participants from Georgia emphasized the crucial importance of the establishment of effective international security arrangements in the occupied regions of Georgia. The need for the creation of an international presence inside the affected regions is further demonstrated in the light of the deteriorating security situation in the occupied regions and the continuing failure of the Russian Federation to reciprocate Georgia's legally binding non-use of force commitment.

In Working Group II, the priority remains to address the existing humanitarian needs of the conflict-affected population and the persisting violation of human rights in an effective and non-political manner. The participants from Georgia brought to the attention of the co-moderators, and extensively discussed, the concrete consequences of the Russian Federation's illegal activities along the occupation line for the humanitarian and human rights situation of the local population residing in the Tskhinvali and Abkhazia regions and in adjacent areas. The evidences of the restriction of the right to security, protection of property, freedom of movement, right to education, and other civil, social and economic rights particularly demonstrate the importance of the creation of human rights monitoring mechanisms in the occupied regions and underscore the urgency of facilitating the humanitarian access of international organizations therein.

Within Working Group II, the participants from Georgia placed great emphasis on the importance of ensuring the right of internally displaced persons to a safe and dignified return and appealed to other participants to make concrete moves in that direction. The participants from Georgia discussed the importance of preserving the cultural and historic monuments located in the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions.

The twenty-seventh round of the Geneva International Discussions will be held on 25 and 26 March 2014. Georgia expresses its appreciation for the dedication and personal input of Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia and welcomed Ambassador Angelo Gnaedinger as an incoming Special Representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Georgia is committed to further continuing its constructive cooperation with the co-Chairs, with the aim of ensuring the substantive discussions in both Working Groups.