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Identical letters dated 25 November 2014 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 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 24 November 2014, on the signing of the so-called "Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Abkhazia on alliance and strategic partnership" (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 33, and of the Security Council.

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





Annex to the identical letters dated 25 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the signing of the so-called "Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Abkhazia on alliance and strategic partnership"

The Russian Federation and the Sokhumi occupation regime signed the so-called "treaty on alliance and strategic partnership" in Sochi on 24 November 2014. This action by the Russian Federation contradicts international law and undermines such fundamental legal principles as the non-interference in internal affairs of States, the non-use of force or the threat of force, sovereignty, the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity and the fulfilment in good faith of international commitments. The signing of this document is directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and constitutes a further step taken by the Russian Federation towards the annexation of the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia.

The text of the document envisages a qualitatively deeper level of integration into the Russian Federation and the incorporation of the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia into its military, economic, social and legal space. The document provides for the creation of a "common security and defence space" and a combined group of armed forces. According to the text, Moscow makes a legal commitment to provide the occupation regime in Sokhumi with advanced military equipment. The document also envisages the de facto abolishment of the Georgian-Russian border along its Abkhaz section and the reinforcement of the occupation line. The document stipulates the harmonization of the so-called legislation of Abkhazia with that of the Russian Federation, as well as with the standards of the Eurasian Economic Union, creating a precondition for the future membership of Abkhazia in the Union. It is worth noting that the Russian Federation also commits itself to pursuing efforts to expand the international recognition of the so-called "independence" of Abkhazia and to facilitate its accession to international organizations, including those created at the initiative of the Russian Federation.

Abkhazia is an integral part of Georgia and is not a subject of international law. Any attempt to sign a treaty with our region is therefore a flagrant violation of international law and constitutes an illegal action devoid of legal validity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its deep concern over the illegal actions of the Russian Federation. Despite the series of constructive measures taken by the Government of Georgia to de-escalate tensions with the Russian Federation, Moscow continues its provocative policy aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. In the light of recent developments in the region, the signature of the document is a clear manifestation both of the far-reaching plans of the Russian Federation and of its intention to hinder the pro-Western policies of sovereign States, including by means of occupation and annexation.

Despite the repeated calls by the Government of Georgia, the Russian Federation, by signing this document, has further violated its international

commitments, including those made under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008. This is of particular concern given the absence of international arrangements in the occupied regions and the refusal of the Russian Federation to commit itself to the non-use of force.

The Government of Georgia is making use of all the resources at its disposal to keep the international community up-to-date with the illegal actions of the Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the signature of the so-called "treaty" with the Sokhumi occupation regime. The Ministry calls upon the international community to properly assess, both politically and legally, the actions of the Russian Federation and to exercise due pressure on Moscow. The firm and unanimous support of the international community will be of decisive importance in the efforts to bring an end to the destructive activities of the Russian Federation.