



United States Mission to the OSCE
**Statement on Geneva Discussions
on Georgia**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a. i. Gary Robbins
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 15, 2011

The United States continues to support the Geneva Discussions as an important forum for improving security and humanitarian conditions in Georgia, and notes the latest round which took place on December 13-14. We urge all of the parties to continue constructive engagement in the Geneva Discussions and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs) in order to foster agreement on international security arrangements, to enhance confidence-building measures, and to promote both strengthened humanitarian initiatives and a sustainable and peaceful resolution to the conflict.

We call on Russia to abide by its commitments under the August 2008 ceasefire agreement and its September 2008 implementing measures, including the withdrawal of Russian troops to positions held prior to the start of hostilities and the facilitation of free and unhindered humanitarian access to the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia.

The United States continues to urge Russia to make a unilateral pledge of Non-Use of Force as Georgia has and we call for a full-fledged, cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia including a robust monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines. We also call for respect of all individuals' human rights and the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of internally displaced persons.

In closing, we look forward to the next round of Geneva Discussions scheduled for March 28-29, 2012. The United States remains committed to helping Russia and Georgia find a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Georgia.

Georgia is a sovereign, independent state, and supporting its territorial integrity within its internationally-recognized borders is a priority for the United States, as it should be for all participating States within the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.