



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# **Sixteen years since the full-scale military aggression against Georgia by the Russian Federation**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
September 19, 2024

We align with the Group of Friends statement, which I expect is going to be delivered soon, and would like to make an additional statement in our national capacity.

Deputy Minister Darsalia, welcome back to the Permanent Council. We are unwavering in our support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and we will continue to call on Russia to withdraw its forces from the occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We condemn Russia's reckless, destabilizing actions, including the tragic killing of a Georgian citizen last November, and its plans to establish a naval base on sovereign Georgian territory.

The United States and Georgia have enjoyed a strong partnership for 32 years. We support a democratic, secure, and prosperous Georgia, and we will continue to work bilaterally and with Allies and partners alike to advance the Georgian people's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. While we have paused most U.S. foreign assistance that benefits the government of Georgia as a result of the government's anti-democratic actions, we are continuing our programs and activities that benefit the people of Georgia, including by strengthening democracy, rule of law, independent media, and economic development.

As friends, we must sometimes convey difficult messages. We have spoken about Georgia's undemocratic foreign agents' law at the May 30 Permanent Council. We are pleased that Georgia has invited ODIHR to observe the October 26 elections and the pre-election period. We urge the government to uphold its OSCE and international commitments.

Madam Chair, the United States joins the Group of Friends of Georgia in voicing our full support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally-recognized borders in the face of Russia's invasion and ongoing occupation of 20 percent of Georgian territory. We call on Russia, as a party to this conflict, to uphold its obligation and commitments under the 2008 ceasefire agreement and to cease its attempts to interfere with Georgia's political, military and economic space.

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