



Chairmanship: Ukraine

DRAFT STATEMENT ON THE GENEVA INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS

We reiterate our support for peaceful conflict resolution based on the full respect of the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

The Geneva International Discussions, which are now in their sixth year, serve as a valuable contribution to security and stability in the region. We are strongly committed to continue promoting dialogue in this format. We urge all participants to take full advantage of the framework of the Geneva International Discussions and to engage into the process in a constructive manner.

We consider that efforts should be redoubled to address security challenges, including the non-use of force and international security arrangements. We call for ensuring the respect of the human rights of all individuals, as well as the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of IDPs and refugees. We recall that unconditional humanitarian access to affected communities requiring assistance is a key international principle. We express concern with the ongoing installation of fences along the administrative boundary lines in Georgia and reaffirm the need to address this issue in the framework of the existing international mechanisms with the aim of finding its peaceful solution through negotiations.

We commend the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms, agreed within the Geneva framework, which play an important role in addressing the security concerns of the local communities, and call for further development of their potential.

We welcome the regular and productive meetings this year of the Ergneti IPRM, and look forward to the early resumption of the meetings of the Gali IPRM.

We welcome the progress made on the OSCE-led water projects and support further OSCE engagement in implementing concrete projects of confidence-building character, with an aim of rebuilding trust and confidence between the affected communities.