



**Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE**

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**Statement on the situation in Georgia**

As for delivery by Mr. Oleh Herasymenko at the 726th (Special) meeting of the Permanent Council  
14 August 2008

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Heikki Talvitie and thanks him for the report on the efforts on the OSCE Chairmanship and other international mediators to put an end to what has become the most serious crisis in Europe in the past few years.

Throughout the crisis situation, Ukraine joined its efforts with other international actors to achieve cessation of hostilities, to prevent the use of force against civilian population, to ensure the return of refugees and to reach agreement on a peaceful settlement based on the principle of territorial integrity of Georgia, and we will continue to do so.

The President of Ukraine together with the Presidents of Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and the Prime Minister of Latvia visited Tbilisi on Tuesday to show their solidarity in the face of Georgia's tragedy and to reaffirm their commitment to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia. Also, on 12 August Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ogrzyzko sent a letter to his French counterpart with a set of proposals, worked out with our partners from Poland and Lithuania, on the restoration of peace in the region.

In view of the critical humanitarian situation in Georgia, the President of Ukraine has ordered to send special planes loaded with humanitarian aid, including medical supplies, to Georgia, the third of it should have arrived there as we speak. The Government of Ukraine has also dispatched to Georgia its special envoy, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, to coordinate humanitarian relief assistance on the ground.

Today we welcome the agreement between Georgia and the Russian Federation, which was reached with the mediation of France, on the complete cessation of hostilities, non-use of force and conflict settlement. We take note of the commitments to ensure free access of humanitarian assistance to the people in need. The key elements of the peace plan reflect the basic principles of Ukraine's position on the peaceful settlement in Georgia, which were contained in numerous statements by the President and Government of Ukraine made during the past week.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation also wishes to express its regret and disappointment about the reports we received from Georgia on violations by the Russian side of the ceasefire agreements, which were accompanied by acts of looting and plundering of the civilian population.

Such actions lead to a further increase in the number of refugees and IDPs and hamper the provision of humanitarian relief to the affected population. We are concerned that these developments can bring about a serious humanitarian crisis in the region.

In this context, the Ukrainian side once again calls for a strict adherence to the agreements, reached with the EU and OSCE mediation, for the creation of humanitarian corridors and ensuring their safety, for the full observance of the norms of international humanitarian law.

We look forward to an early establishment of international peacekeeping mechanisms, which would contribute to a just and lasting settlement with full respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

Ukraine fully supports the proposal of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to significantly increase the number of military monitoring officers in Georgia.

Ukraine stands ready to further contribute to the international peacekeeping efforts with a view to achieving a comprehensive settlement in Georgia.

I thank you.