



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism for the Abkhazia Region of Georgia

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 3, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States regrets that the 36th meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) for the Abkhazia region of Georgia scheduled for April 24, was postponed. We strongly urge all parties to engage constructively in the Geneva Discussions and the IPRMs 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 consider the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia a crucial stabilizing factor, and we appreciate the key role it plays in the implementation of IPRMs. The EUMM also is critical to the international community's efforts to monitor compliance with the 2008 ceasefire and implementing measures. For this reason, we regret that the EUMM does not have access to both sides of the administrative boundary lines. Granting such access, as well as free and unhindered humanitarian access as called for under the 2008 ceasefire agreement would better address security and humanitarian issues in the communities on both sides, and build confidence at the same time.

The United States remains committed to a peaceful solution to the conflict in Georgia, and we look forward to the rescheduling of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism for the Abkhazia region of Georgia this month, as well as the next round of Geneva Discussions June 7-8. We reiterate our strong support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.