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EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**Statement by Georgian Delegation**

*(as delivered by Ambassador Victor DOLIDZE at 642<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council)  
Vienna, 14 December 2006*

Mr. Chairman,

Let me talk about the statements issued by the Russian State Duma, according to which the President of Russian Federation and the Federal Council are requested to recognize the results of the referendum and presidential elections held in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, as well as independence of the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Georgia, and to establish associated relations with Abkhazia. The statement issued by Georgian Parliament in response to these documents of Russian State Duma says that Georgia will not yield to the provocative actions and declarations of the Russian Federation aimed at preparing grounds for possible armed provocations and discrediting Georgia in the face of the international arena.

The statements of the Russian Duma once again confirm the fairness of the Georgia's demand for the internationalization of the conflict resolution process, thus in the framework of existing conflict settlement formats, Russia can not be considered as an impartial broker of the peace process.

This represents an extremely unfriendly political step aimed at provoking the Georgian side, escalating the situation and hampering the process of conflict settlement through a joint international effort.

I wouldn't say anything new by reminding my colleagues in this plenary hall of the developments during the negotiations on the draft Statement on Georgia at the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Brussels, as well as during the preparatory consultations in Vienna.

In Vienna, without any reasonable explanation given, Russian side left the process of preparatory consultations, which was aimed at rapprochement of positions between different delegations, thus providing good basis for fruitful negotiations in Brussels. Unfortunately, Russian side continued to carry on with this kind of approach also at the working group meetings at the Ministerial Council in Brussels, and by its nonflexible position actually caused the failure of consensus on the draft Ministerial Statement on Georgia, which should be dealing with crucial issues on conflict settlement in two regions of Georgia.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to this, I would like to also draw the attention of my colleagues to the processes led by our northern neighbour with regard to the Economic Rehabilitation Program for the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, adopted at the Donors' Conference in Brussels.

Without any transparency, the Russian side is implementing several projects in the region having no consent of the OSCE and the Georgian side.

On November 28<sup>th</sup> at the working meeting of the Steering Committee on the Economical Rehabilitation in the Tskhinvali Region the representative of the Russian side stated that the Russian Federation had either completed or begun 7 projects of which only two were part of the list of projects submitted to the Brussels Conference and agreed by all sides to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict resolution process. The lack of transparency arouses serious suspicions of Georgian side, that the significant part of 3 million Euro pledge made by Russian side at the Brussels Conference could be spent on militarization of the region.

The Georgian side expresses its disapproval of such non-transparent measures and considers that by these one-sided acts the Russian Federation reaffirms its support towards the Tskhinvali separatist regime.

Finally, let me remind the distinguished delegations that the problem related to the economic sanctions imposed by Russian side on Georgia earlier this year still remain unresolved, including the suspension of all legitimate means of air, land and naval communication between the two countries. Regardless of continued pledge from Georgian side the real political will of Russian Federation to seriously address and cooperate for the resolution of this problem is not in sight yet.

Moreover, the facts of xenophobia and human rights violations against citizens of Georgia or ethnic Georgians still persist in Russia. During the past few days almost 70 people were deported to Georgia, one of them, 51 year old Manana Djabelia, passed away in one of the detention centers of Moscow due to inhuman treatment.

All those discriminative actions against ethnic Georgians that take place in the Russian Federation contradict the OSCE values and principles. Georgia once again calls explicitly on the Government of the Russian Federation to guide itself while taking decisions by the universally recognized norms and principles of international law, build upon the existing international practice and put an end to unlawful harassment of Georgian citizens.

Let me reiterate once again our readiness to engage in a dialogue with the Russian Federation – in a constructive, genuine, well-intentioned and positive manner.

Thank you.