

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THE ABKHAZIA
AND SOUTH OSSETIA REGIONS OF GEORGIA
720TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
10 JULY 2008**

Canada is greatly concerned at the recent violence that has been occurring in the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We condemn these acts of violence and deplore the resulting deaths and casualties, including among UNOMIG personnel. We strongly urge all parties involved to display maximum restraint in words and deeds and to engage in actions that further confidence building between all sides.

Canada reiterates the necessity of peaceful and constructive negotiations leading to a resolution of these conflicts in a manner that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. We urge the parties involved to redouble efforts to resume dialogue toward a lasting settlement. Canada also calls on the Russian Federation to support the resumption of talks between the parties, and to urge the parties to begin talks.

Our delegation would further note the positive contribution made by the OSCE Observation Mission in securing the peaceful release of four Georgian military officers. It is our view that this is a clear indication of the value of OSCE military monitoring officers in building confidence in South Ossetia. We would reiterate our call for the deployment of additional monitors as quickly as possible.

Canada also welcomes the intention of the Chairmanship-in-Office to send an envoy to Georgia to help defuse tensions.