



United States Mission to the OSCE
**Condemnation of So-Called Treaty
between Russia and Georgia's
Abkhazia Region**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Kate Byrnes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 24, 2016

The United States strongly opposes the Russian Federation's ratification of an agreement secured with the de facto leaders in Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia regarding a joint military force. We do not recognize the legitimacy of this so-called "treaty," which does not constitute a valid international agreement.

The United States' position on Abkhazia and South Ossetia remains clear: these regions are integral parts of Georgia, and we continue to support Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Russia should fulfill all of its commitments under the 2008 ceasefire agreement, withdraw its forces to pre-conflict positions, reverse its recognition of the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states, and provide free access for humanitarian assistance to these regions.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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