



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on Events in South Ossetia**

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Hugh Neighbour  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
August 8, 2008

Mr. Chairman.

We welcome your willingness to schedule this special session of the Permanent Council on short notice. We support the upcoming visit of Special Envoy Talvitie to the conflict zone beginning tomorrow, as well as the personal involvement of the Chairman in Office in attempts to resolve this conflict.

Mr. Chairman, the United States is deeply concerned about the escalation of violence in South Ossetia. We are very concerned about reports that large numbers of Russian troops and tanks are passing through the Roki tunnel in violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In our view, the introduction of additional forces into this volatile situation and any further violence will solve nothing. We call again for a political solution to this situation.

We support Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, and call for an immediate end to the violence and for direct talks between the parties. We call on all parties to do everything possible to avoid any further military conflict.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.