



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **On the 62<sup>nd</sup> Round of the Geneva International Discussions on the Conflict in Georgia**

As delivered by Political Counselor Erin Webster-Main  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 14, 2024

The United States takes note of the 62nd round of the Geneva International Discussions (GID) on the conflict in Georgia on November 5-6. The GID remains the only platform for resolving this conflict.

We were dismayed that the de facto authorities in Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia closed crossing points on the administrative boundary lines for the duration of the election period. The closures disenfranchised thousands of people from being able to vote in Georgia's October 26 parliamentary elections. These impediments to freedom of movement further jeopardize the livelihoods and well-being of people living in the conflict-affected areas. We call on Russia to allow the full opening of crossing points on both administrative boundary lines, as well as for unrestricted access for humanitarian assistance delivery, which would help conflict-affected communities.

The Geneva Discussions are an opportunity for dialogue. Regrettably, Russia and its proxies continue to stage walkouts in Working Group Two on humanitarian issues, preventing dialogue on the return of internally displaced people, water, and gas, the discussion of which could help improve the lives of persons in the conflict-affected areas.

Russia's ongoing occupation of 20 percent of Georgia in violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and its unilateral construction of so-called border structures along the administrative boundary lines have further degraded people's livelihoods.

We welcome the work of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs), which help defuse tensions at the local level and provide concrete support to the people living in conflict-affected areas. We are pleased with the regular meetings of the Ergneti IPRM and call for the immediate resumption of its counterpart in Gali without preconditions.

Madam Chair,

Russia's invasion of Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, like its unprovoked war against Ukraine, is a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and contravenes the Helsinki Final Act. We again condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and its invasion and occupation of Georgia's sovereign territory.

Russia, as a party to the conflict, should immediately withdraw its troops to pre-conflict positions in fulfillment of its obligation under the 2008 ceasefire agreement.

The United States reiterates our enduring support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We fully support the Georgian people's aspirations to pursue Euro-Atlantic integration and EU accession.

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