



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON GEORGIA

As delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative Asbjørn Brandsrud
to the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council, Vienna
8 August 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Norwegian delegation thanks the Finnish Chair for convening this special meeting of the Permanent Council on the rapidly deteriorating situation in Georgia.

Like the European Union and others, Norway is deeply worried about the escalating conflict in South Ossetia and the serious consequences military actions have for the civilian population in the area. We urge all parties to agree on an immediate ceasefire and to refrain from further actions and provocations that could aggravate the situation even further.

Norway once again calls for a peaceful settlement and we urge all parties to resume direct talks to this end. Norway expresses her full support to the efforts made – not least by the OSCE and the Chairman-in-Office himself, also by sending Special Envoy Talvitie to Georgia - to re-establish the dialogue between the parties. A lasting solution to the conflict can only be achieved through negotiations and never by military means.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Norway reiterates her commitment to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognised borders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.