



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement in Response to the Address by the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1289th meeting of the Permanent Council,
12 November 2020

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine joins others in warmly welcoming the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions to the Permanent Council.

The 51-st round of Geneva International Discussions was postponed several times this year. This negative development undermined the possibility for the sides of the Russian-Georgian conflict to engage actively in commonly addressing relevant security and humanitarian issues. While understanding fully the challenges, posed by the COVID-19 pandemic this year, it is important that such an unfavourable situation does not become a precedent.

Ukraine strongly condemns Russia's ongoing occupation of Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali as well as Russia's intensified steps aimed at their illegal militarization and de-facto annexation. We remain deeply concerned by the ongoing so-called "borderization" activities carried out by the Russian occupation administration.

As one of the tragic outcomes of Russia's aggression against Georgia, 15% of Georgian population became internally displaced persons. In this vein, the ongoing restrictions of the freedom of movement across the occupation line severely influence the overall humanitarian situation on the ground. We call on Russia and its occupation administrations to lift these restrictions as soon as possible. The malpractice by the Russian proxies to apprehend illegally the people, who try to overcome raising barriers on the occupation line, must not be left without proper reaction of the OSCE.

Ukraine praises the constructive approach of Georgia aimed at peaceful resolution of the Russian-Georgian conflict. Having unilaterally reaffirmed the non-use of force commitments, Georgia has demonstrated its political will in this regard. We call on the Russian Federation to reciprocate and immediately fulfil its obligations under the 2008 EU-mediated ceasefire agreement and withdraw its armed formations and occupation administrations from the temporarily occupied territories of Georgia.

The international humanitarian organizations must have an unhindered access to the conflict-affected areas, and the EU Monitoring Mission must be provided with the possibility to implement its functions envisaged by the relevant mandate.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Ukraine's strong support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.