



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

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11 June 2008

ENGLISH only

Statement on Abkhazia, Georgia

As delivered by Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko

11 June 2008

Madam Chairman,

While Ukraine has aligned herself with the statement of the European Union on Abkhazia, Georgia, I would like to make a few additional points in my national capacity. We reaffirm our strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders as well as the efforts of Tbilisi to solve the existing territorial conflicts in Georgia peacefully, on the basis of universally recognized principles of international law.

It is with great concern that we have been following the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, in recent months. The use of the existing multilateral and bilateral mechanisms of consultations for diffusing and settling the crisis is a noteworthy development, although it is a sign of rising tensions in the volatile region.

Madam Chairman, we call upon the parties to take steps towards normalization of relations and to continue dialogue at a highest level in order to reach peaceful and sustainable solutions. I would like to draw your attention to the Joint Statement of the Presidents of Georgia and Ukraine, issued on 30 April, and I quote:

"Ukraine and Georgia confirm that solving the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-South Ossetian conflicts is only possible by peaceful means and within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions, in particular UNSC resolution 1808 of April 15. These resolutions, as it is known, call upon the UN Member States to respect sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders".

Madam Chairman, we strongly condemn any use of force in the conflict zones. We firmly believe that the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area have to be resolved peacefully, on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. Violence and aggression are contrary to the principles of security and co-operation, they are against the commitments on which peace and stability in Europe are based.

I thank you.