



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**Statement as delivered by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the  
OSCE H.E. Konstantin Zaldastanishvili on the situation in Ukraine  
at the 986<sup>th</sup> special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
Vienna, March 3, 2014**

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset let me join the previous speakers in welcoming the CiO Personal Envoy, Ambassador Guldemann to the special PC and express our gratitude to the Swiss Chairmanship for convening today's meeting.

Georgia fully shares the position of the vast majority of the OSCE participating states that the activities of the Russian Federation in Crimea, Ukraine which under the Budapest Memorandum dated 5 December 1994 is the guarantor of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and inviolability of borders, are illegal and groundless, amounting to the launch of aggression against sovereign and independent State.

I would like to use this opportunity and once again express solidarity with the Ukrainian people and condemn in strongest possible terms the attempt to violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

Madam Chairperson,

Georgia calls on international community to duly, firmly and comprehensively assess the situation in Ukraine and take all possible immediate measures in order to deescalate the grave situation in this country.

We consider the current development in Ukraine as the challenge to the OSCE, to prove that it is still able to react to emerging crisis situations that could lead to the conflicts both on local and regional level. Crisis in Ukraine has wider regional implications, indeed posing threats to the European security as a whole and we need to act with resolve.

We deem it of utmost urgency, that the team of observers be immediately dispatched to monitor the situation on the ground. We stand ready to send voluntary national contribution under the auspices of the OSCE monitoring mission. Against this background, we support the proposal by the CiO on the establishment of the OSCE monitoring mission and are also ready to consider all possible initiatives that could be implemented in a speedy manner to contribute to guaranteeing the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of Ukraine.

We do hope that timely and active engagement of the international community, including the OSCE, through the use of all its applicable mechanisms will prevent the full-scale military confrontation in Ukraine and avoid yet another occupation of the territory of the OSCE participating state that to our regret was not possible in case of Georgia in 2008. Let me recall, that in our case, despite Russia's obligations under the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire

Agreement, Georgia's regions remain under the Russian Occupation, with tens of thousands of troops and heavy equipment deployed on the ground. Latest developments have once again demonstrated how important it is that Russia commits to the Non-Use of Force pledge. In this context, the strengthening of international security mechanisms, including the maintenance of the strong and efficient EUMM in the war affected areas, is ever more relevant.

In conclusion, we reiterate our firm support to the Government and people of Ukraine and their decision to build a truly democratic European State. At the same time we call on Russia to refrain from destructive activities and respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the neighboring countries.

Thank you.