



Delegation of Canada
to the OSCE

Délégation du Canada
auprès de l'OSCE

PC.DEL/1016/17
14 July 2017
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ENGLISH only

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR NATASHA CAYER
ON INTENSIFIED PROCESS OF FORTIFYING THE OCCUPATION LINE IN
THE TSKHINVALI REGION OF GEORGIA
1154TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
13 July 2017**

Mr. Chairperson,

I make this statement on behalf of Norway and Canada.

We would like to thank the Delegation of Georgia for having again raised the issue of attempted “borderisation” activities in the breakaway regions of Georgia, and recall also the EUMM’s recent confirmation of such activities. Canada wishes to add its voice to those emphasizing the importance of continued constructive engagement through the Geneva International Discussions on such issues. We are concerned by these actions of attempted “borderisation”, as we are with the closing of crossing points and other actions, which serve only to increase the hardship of local populations by further restricting their freedom of movement.

We urge Russia and the de-facto authorities of the breakaway regions to refrain from all further actions that violate Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and hinder efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict. We reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to abide by the fundamental principles of international law and to fully respect its commitments under the OSCE, in particular the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement and the Agreement on Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008.

Our countries reiterate their full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and underscore the need to re-establish a robust OSCE presence in Georgia, with a mandate covering the entirety of the country, in all three OSCE dimensions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.