



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO H.E. MR. DAVID DONDUA,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA AND TO  
AMBASSADOR KESTUTIS JANKAUSKAS, HEAD OF THE EU MONITORING  
MISSION IN GEORGIA**

**As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the 825<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation,  
Vienna, 13 July 2016**

Mr Chairman,

Thank you for including the security situation in Georgia in your FSC program. Thank you also to Deputy Minister Dondua and to Ambassador Jankauskas for comprehensive presentations.

I want to use this opportunity to repeat points I have made during discussions on Georgia in the Permanent Council.

Mr Chairman,

We confirm our full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We call on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement and its Implementing Measures of 8 September 2008.

We reiterate our denouncement of Russia's so-called "treaties" with the de facto authorities of the breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which foresee the integration of these regions into Russian civilian and military governance structures. These so-called "treaties" represent clear violations of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and have no legal standing.

We remain concerned about the human rights situation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The lack of information from the regions exacerbates our concern. We join others, and you Minister Dondua, in calling for the re-establishment of a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia. The OSCE autonomous institutions, the EUMM and other international monitors must be given unrestricted access to Georgia's breakaway regions.

Norway supports the Geneva International Discussions as the prime forum for addressing the consequences of the 2008 war. We again call on Russia to revoke its recognition of the

Georgian breakaway regions, to withdraw its military forces from Georgia, and to engage constructively in resolving the conflict.

Mr Chairman,

Norway and Georgia have for several years cooperated closely on defence related matters. Norway has in addition underlined its continued support to the *Substantial NATO-Georgia Package* (SNGP), agreed at the NATO summit in Wales in 2014. As NATO Heads of State and Government stated at the summit in Warsaw last week this package will now be strengthened.

It is also worth noting that NATO Heads of State and Government in Warsaw stated that the Alliance would continue to boost the defence capabilities and build the resilience of its eastern partners, including Georgia, to resist outside pressure and to advance reforms. NATO will also continue to work closely with partners who have a significant contribution to make to security and stability in the Black Sea region.

We are confident that our cooperation will help modernize Georgia's armed forces and promote interoperability with NATO.

Mr Chairman,

Let me conclude by commending Georgia for its democratic development and progress with regard to respect for human rights. We hope that the upcoming parliamentary elections in October will further strengthen the Georgian democracy.

Minister Dondua, we look forward to continuing to develop our partnership on the basis of shared values.

Thank you, Mr Chairman