

Elements for a peaceful Settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict

1. All efforts by the United Nations and the "Group of Friends of the Secretary-General" are guided by their determination to promote a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict only by peaceful means and within the framework of the Security Council resolutions.
2. We are committed to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We recall our support for the principles contained in the "Paper on Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competencies between Tbilisi and Sukhumi". We welcome additional ideas that the sides would be willing to offer and urge the parties to creatively and constructively intensify their political dialogue. They should in the first place finalize, without delay, the package of documents on the non-use of violence and on the return of internally displaced persons and refugees for the Gali-District. At the same time, necessary steps have to be undertaken to secure the protection and dignity of the civilian population including the returnees.
3. We are calling on the two sides to make full use of all existing mechanisms as described in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We stress our continuing appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the SRSG.
4. Close and effective cooperation between UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force is of paramount importance as they play an important stabilizing role in the conflict zone. A lasting and comprehensive settlement of the conflict will require appropriate security guarantees.
5. A follow-up on the expressed willingness of the highest authorities of both sides for a meeting without preconditions is needed.
6. Both sides should urgently address the pending issues currently under negotiation.

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In this context, the Georgian side should seriously address legitimate Abkhaz security concerns, avoid steps which could be seen as threatening, and refrain from militant rhetoric.

The Abkhaz side should: seriously address the issue of return of IDPs and refugees, including their security and human rights concerns; publicly reassure the local population, particularly in the Gali district that their residency rights and identity will be respected; and move without delay on implementing past commitments relating to UN police advisors, human rights sub office, and the language of instruction.