



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Twenty-fourth session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### **Note verbale dated 24 September 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council**

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council, and has the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the illegal activities of the Russian occupation forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region.

The Permanent Mission kindly requests the secretariat to duly circulate the present note verbale and the above-mentioned statement\* annexed thereto as documents of the twenty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council, under the agenda item 4.

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\* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

## Annex

*[English only]*

### **Statement of the Georgian Foreign Ministry on the illegal activities of the Russian occupation forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region of Georgia**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the continuous illegal activities of the Russian occupation forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region in flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the commitments undertaken under the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement. After the resumption of the installation of barbwire fences in the village of Ditsi, Gori district along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region, since 22 September 2013, the Russian occupation forces intensively reactivated this illegal policy in the village of Dvani, Kareli district.

Unfortunately, the local population has been again prevented from acceding to the agricultural lands and carrying out agricultural work. Despite the international call, the Russian Federation continues to blatantly violate the fundamental rights and freedoms of the population residing in the occupied territories and their vicinity, including, but not limited to the rights to free movement, education in native language and other civil, economic and cultural rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia once again expresses its profound concern over the humanitarian consequences of Russia's illegal activities along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region and strongly stresses that Russia, as an occupying power, maintaining its illegal military presence in Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and exercising effective control over Georgia's Tskhinvali and Abkhazia regions, bears the responsibility under international law to desist from the violation of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the population residing in the occupied regions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls upon the partner states and international organizations to undertake appropriate and effective measures to immediately stop and reverse Russia's illegal activities along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region of Georgia. Ongoing illegal activities of the Russian Federation and their humanitarian implications underscore the urgency of the establishment international security and human rights monitoring mechanisms.

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