



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Interpretive Statement in Response to Decision on OSCE Monitors**

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador Julie Finley  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
August 19, 2008

While today's Decision is far from perfect, we believe it is of the utmost importance to get additional MMOs on the ground as soon as possible. If the parties to the conflict can accept this language, we can, too.

The United States offers the following interpretation:

We expect that this Decision will not preempt the establishment of further international mechanisms, in accordance with the six-point plan.

With regard to paragraph one, we expect the armed forces of the Russian Federation to honor their commitment to withdraw to pre-August 6 lines; that is, the lines where they were stationed prior to the beginning of hostilities.

We also expect the Russian Federation to honor its commitment to provide full access for humanitarian operations throughout Georgia. We deplore reports of looting and attacks on civilians, especially in areas the international community has been unable to access. Withdrawal of Russian forces to pre-August 6 lines will allow for the more rapid re-establishment of normal, civilian policing. Until this occurs, Russia bears responsibility for the safety and welfare of all civilians in areas under the control of its forces.

With regard to paragraph two, we are interpreting the minimum period of six calendar months to become effective immediately upon the arrival of newly deployed MMOs. We expect the Russian Federation to allow the MMOs to fulfill the full range of their responsibilities. This includes monitoring compliance with the conditions of the six-point cease-fire, to include the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

With regard to paragraphs three and four, we expect the Russian Federation to allow MMOs full access to the whole of Georgia, with particular focus on the conflict zones, to include South Ossetia.