



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement in reaction to planned military exercises by Russia

As delivered by the Delegation of Georgia

at the 898th session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, January 19, 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to inform the Permanent Council that during a meeting with foreign military attachés held in December 2011, the Chief of the Russian Federation's General Staff, General Nikolai Makarov, announced Russia's plans to hold a series of strategic military exercises ("Kavkaz-2012") in September 2012. According to sources within the Russian Ministry of Defence, these exercises will - unlike previous ones - 'cover not only the territory of Russia's southern military district, but will also extend to Armenia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia'.

Besides forces under the authority of Russia's Ministry of Defence, these exercises will also involve troops belonging to the country's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federal Security Service, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Federal Protection Service and other law enforcement agencies. The planned exercises also call for the use of all manner of surveillance and communication equipment (including electronic and satellite-based equipment), unmanned aerial vehicles and high-precision weapons.

The Georgian side is convinced that Russia is deliberately building up its military forces, strengthening its military infrastructure and deploying offensive weapons in Georgia's occupied territories. In doing so, the Russian government is seeking to instigate a permanent state of tension in Georgia and in the Black Sea region as a whole. The international community should pay due attention to the fact that the Russian government continues to adopt aggressive practices, including the demonstration of military force and provocations.

Thank You.