



STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ABKHAZIA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Abkhazia is deeply concerned with the speech of the Georgia President, Mikheil Saakashvili, at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, given on February 17, 2010, where he once again confirmed the intention of the Georgian side to address the problems of the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-Ossetian conflict resolution by the force of arms.

During the negotiating process between Georgia and Abkhazia, the Georgian side has repeatedly violated the agreements signed between our parties and the responsibilities taken by it. It is also for us not an unexpected fact that the policy of the Georgian leadership has not changed, and is directed solely to the forceful resolution of the conflicts, the evidence of which is the ongoing process of intensive Georgian re-militarization.

The position of many Western states is also seen as a concern. Despite the recent Georgian aggression against South Ossetia, they continue to provide extensive military assistance, thus encouraging the aggressive ambitions of the Georgian leadership. There is no doubt that the Georgian side, while continuing to participate in the Geneva discussions on peaceful settlement of conflicts, willfully refuses to sign the document on international guarantees of non-use of force against Abkhazia and South Ossetia, thereby affirming its vengeful attitudes to both republics.

In this regard, we urge the International Community to draw attention to the ongoing belligerent rhetoric of the Georgian President, and to take appropriate measures to prevent the further militarization of Georgia and to prevent another round of tension in the South Caucasus.

Sukhum,

February 18, 2010