



## **Ensuring Peace, Conflict Prevention in Georgia and in the South Caucasus Policy Paper**

**Paata Zakareishvili, Tbilisi Grigol Robakidze University Professor, expert on conflict analysis**

As part of the GPPAC South Caucasus Dialogue Programme 2022, the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) continues to develop and present Policy Papers intended for both peace organizations, government agencies, and the wider audience.

In the light of the War and consequent developments in Ukraine in 2022, the Policy Papers are mainly devoted to this topic in both a regional and national context.

The contents of the publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation.

Tbilisi, 2022

### *A brief summary*

The main result of the current stage of the War in Ukraine is that - Russia made a mistake in all its calculations. "Special operation", as Russia called its invasion has rapidly escalated into the War, despite denial by the Kremlin. Russia made a mistake when it saw Ukraine as weak and disabled as it has remembered it since 2014, when Kiev and the international community did not resist much the annexation of Crimea. Moscow did not expect Ukraine to fight better than it did eight years ago in Donetsk and Luhansk. Russia then managed to establish its control over parts of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

Seeing that the world turned a blind eye to these episodes, Moscow decided - could have acted more arrogantly, the world would not have reacted even now. Russia was convinced of its omnipotence and thought that it would easily achieve its plans in Ukraine, but this time the world no longer closed its eyes. Moscow has lost control over the situation, and now the situation dictates its terms to Russia.

### **Recommendations:**

- In the current situation, the Georgian Government should contribute to the constant presence of Georgia issue on the international agenda. The Georgian Government should permanently and clearly appeal to the international community that Georgia is as much a victim of Russian aggression as Ukraine is, and Russia must withdraw its armed forces from Georgia in accordance with the obligation fixed in the Six-point Plan of August 12, 2008.
- Given the current situation, the Georgian Government should with the EU about changing the mandate of The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM), including transforming it into peacekeeping forces, or any other format. In such a case, the Georgian Government's line would have emphasized the care of the authorities of Georgia on the provision of security conditions for the population in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
- The Georgian Government should encourage the European Union, the UN and the OSCE, establishing direct contacts with the Abkhaz and South Ossetian sides, to deprive Russia of the opportunity to further isolate these regions, from the rest of the world.
- In turn representatives of the EU, the UN and the OSCE must have more principled approach in a dialogue with Tbilisi to urge Georgian authorities to establish direct access to Sokhumi and Tskhinvali.
- In parallel with this process, the Georgian government should initiate direct negotiations with met with Sokhumi and Tskhinvali to facilitate the work on the text of bilateral agreement about non-use of force.
- Georgian civil sector has to cooperate with the Government and constantly supply it with exclusive information on the situation in the South Ossetia and Abkhazia and suggest civil sector's vision about the steps to be taken for transformation of these conflicts.