

[Georgia\(/country/geo\)](#)

Statement by the group of friends of UN SG of the UN on Georgia, following their meetings in Tbilisi and Sukhumi

News and Press Release

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The visit of the high-level delegation of the Group of Friends - Ambassador Dr Norbert Baas, Germany, Mr Frédéric Baleine du Laurens, France, Ambassador Mikhail N. Bocharnikov, Russia, Sir Brian Fall, United Kingdom, Mr Matthew J. Bryza, United States - together with the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini, to Tbilisi and Sukhumi was based on the latest resolution of the U.N. Security Council of March 31, 2006, on the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia.

In all meetings with the Government of Georgia, as well as with the leadership in Sukhumi, the Friends supported the proposals and raised the concerns expressed by the Security Council. In particular, the human rights' situation in the Gali district, the return of IDPs and refugees, and the non-use of force were discussed.

The Friends consider this visit as very useful. They welcomed the steps by the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to establish a dialogue between them and encouraged them to focus now on practical steps to build confidence.

The Group of Friends expressed their appreciation on the cooperation between the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the Peacekeeping Forces of the CIS.

The Group of Friends will report on their findings to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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