



General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 June 2017

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.71)]

71/290. Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including its resolutions [62/153](#) of 18 December 2007, [62/249](#) of 15 May 2008, [63/307](#) of 9 September 2009, [64/162](#) of 18 December 2009, [64/296](#) of 7 September 2010, [65/287](#) of 29 June 2011, [66/165](#) of 19 December 2011, [66/283](#) of 3 July 2012, [67/268](#) of 13 June 2013, [68/180](#) of 18 December 2013, [68/274](#) of 5 June 2014, [69/286](#) of 3 June 2015, [70/165](#) of 17 December 2015 and [70/265](#) of 7 June 2016,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions on Georgia relating to the need for all parties to work towards a comprehensive peace and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin, and stressing the importance of their full and timely implementation,

Recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement¹ as the key international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons,

Concerned by forced demographic changes resulting from the conflicts in Georgia,

Concerned also by the humanitarian situation caused by armed conflict in August 2008, which resulted in the further forced displacement of civilians,

Mindful of the urgent need to find a solution to the problems related to forced displacement in Georgia,

Underlining the importance of the discussions that commenced in Geneva on 15 October 2008 and of continuing to address the issue of the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of internally displaced persons and refugees on the basis of internationally recognized principles and conflict-settlement practices,

¹ E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.



Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 70/265,²

1. *Recognizes* the right of return of all internally displaced persons and refugees and their descendants, regardless of ethnicity, to their homes throughout Georgia, including in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia;
2. *Stresses* the need to respect the property rights of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflicts in Georgia and to refrain from obtaining property in violation of those rights;
3. *Reaffirms* the unacceptability of forced demographic changes;
4. *Underlines* the urgent need for unimpeded access for humanitarian activities to all internally displaced persons, refugees and other persons residing in all conflict-affected areas throughout Georgia;
5. *Calls upon* all participants in the Geneva discussions to intensify their efforts to establish a durable peace, to commit to enhanced confidence-building measures and to take immediate steps to ensure respect for human rights and create favourable security conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees to their places of origin;
6. *Underlines* the need for the development of a timetable to ensure the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of all internally displaced persons and refugees affected by the conflicts in Georgia to their homes;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution;
8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled “Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development”.

*85th plenary meeting
1 June 2017*

² A/71/899.