



**UNITED NATIONS      NATIONS UNIES**  
**United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia**

**For Immediate Release**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING  
ISSUES BUT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS**

In the light of the recent maritime incident in the vicinity of Sukhumi and with regard to the subsequent decision of the Abkhaz side of 31 July 2004 to suspend its participation in negotiations carried out in the framework of the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) would like to state the following:

The Mission remains convinced that there is no alternative to the resolution of such incidents but through negotiations. This applies also to all outstanding issues;

The Mission sees at least two basic prerequisites for further progress in the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process, i.e. the strict observance of the cease-fire agreement and the active participation of the sides in all main directions of the peace process. These two prerequisites, which are mutually reinforcing, have been regularly highlighted in the reports of the United Nations Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, the Security Council resolutions and the high-level meetings of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General;

The Mission calls on both sides to refrain from any unilateral actions, which could negatively affect the peace process and further complicate the situation and likewise to all participants of the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process to spare no efforts aimed at overcoming the present impasse;

The Mission offers both sides its good offices to defuse the present tension and work out a credible approach of handling the existing problems in a constructive way.

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