Press Release
January 13, 2013

The Civic Dialogue Series “Point of View” for Mutual Understanding and Confidence between Georgians and South Ossetians continues.

The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University in partnership with Alliance for Conflict Transformation non-profit organization held the thirteenth meeting of Georgian and South Ossetian civil society representatives on January 12-13, 2013 in Yerevan. This dialogue was a continuation of meetings held from 2008 to 2012, the first of which took place in December 2008, in the conference center of the Institute in Mason Neck, in the state of Virginia. The process “Point of View” is a continuation of informal, or peoples diplomacy after the August 2008 war.

This time, 25 participants took part in the informal meeting, including representatives of international and non-governmental organizations. All attendees participated in the meeting in their personal capacity and did not represent the interests of any organizations.

During the dialogue the participants discussed the current situation and various initiative that are aimed at the restoration of mutual understanding, trust and confidence between divided Georgian and Ossetian societies. They also considered the long-term prospects for the “Point of View” process. Experts presented to participants information related to issues of irrigation and drink water supply.

During the meeting the participants discussed presentations on social and political situation and future of Georgian-Ossetian relations. The results of the discussions will be available in mid January 2013 on the GMU website at: http://scar.gmu.edu/south-caucasus-project/

During the meeting presentation were made by international actors, including “Saferworld”, the European Union Monitoring Mission, and the British Embassy in Georgia, as well as the Center for Citizen Peacebuilding at the University of California Irvine.

Participants also worked in small groups and discussed issues related to education and youth, mass media, arts and culture, missing persons, as well as interactions of NGOs with the government.

For the last 27 years, the Institute, now the School, for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University has convened various citizen diplomacy efforts in Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and in the territory of the former Soviet Union.

The participants and the organizers are grateful to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of Great Britain for their support of this meeting.

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