

Acknowledgements

This Report is the result of a nine-month effort by various experts, consultants, members of a Senior Advisory Board and a small core team who worked relentlessly, sifting through a seemingly insurmountable wealth of information, every so often of a contradictory nature, to present as accurate, impartial and even-handed an analysis of the August 2008 conflict in Georgia as was possible.

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The Mission had the privilege of being able to call on the guidance and advice of a number of widely-respected politicians and senior civil servants with special expertise in the fields of international relations, conflict management and humanitarian as well as human rights issues. At the time of writing in August 2009, the members of this Senior Advisory Board were as follows:

Senior Advisory Board Members

Mr Jean-Marie GUÉHENNO

Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution and the Center on International Cooperation,
UN Under-Secretary-General and Head of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations until
2008 – France

Dr Ursula PLASSNIK

Member of Parliament
Former Minister for Foreign Affairs until 2008 – Austria

Prof. Adam D. ROTFELD

Former Minister for Foreign Affairs until 2005 – Poland

Mr Samuel SCHMID

Former Minister for Defence until 2008 – Switzerland

Dr Cornelio SOMMARUGA

Honorary Chairman of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining,
Former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross until 1999 – Switzerland

Mr Karsten D. VOIGT

Coordinator of German-American Cooperation,
Former Member of Parliament – Germany

The Mission's work was also reinforced by a team of some 19 experts, including legal experts, military experts, political analysts and historians, who provided written contributions in their respective fields of professional experience. Their work is acknowledged here with sincere appreciation. Again, at the time of this writing, these experts were:

Military Experts

Gen. (ret.) Gilles GALLET – France
Lieutenant-General (ret.) Christophe KECKEIS – Switzerland
Colonel (ret.) Christopher LANGTON – United Kingdom
Colonel (SG) Wolfgang RICHTER – Germany
Air Commodore (ret.) Philip J. WILKINSON – United Kingdom

Legal Experts

Dr Théo BOUTRUCHE – France
Mr René KOSIRNIK – Switzerland
Prof. Otto LUCHTERHANDT – Germany
Prof. Angelika NUSSBERGER – Germany
Prof. Anne PETERS – Germany
Dr Nikolas STÜRCHLER – Switzerland

Historians

Mr Wojciech GÓRECKI – Poland
Dr Uwe HALBACH – Germany
Prof. Luigi MAGAROTTO – Italy

Political Analysts

Prof. Bruno COPPIETERS – Belgium
Ms Céline FRANCIS – Belgium
Dr Jörg HIMMELREICH – Germany
Mr Dennis SAMMUT – United Kingdom
Dr Marian STASZEWSKI - Poland

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Heidi Tagliavini
Ambassador
Head of Mission