

## Statement by President Sergei Bagapsh On Recognition by Nauru

"Abkhazia is honored to be recognized by the Government of Nauru. Like Abkhazia, Nauru is small but determined to achieve a productive life for its citizens through independence, hard work, and a vision for the future. My Government looks forward to working with that of President Stephen Marcus. We have already discussed ways to expand economic development, cultural exchange, and political cooperation between our two countries. The more UN member countries that recognize Abkhazia, the stronger our sovereignty becomes. For us, that strength enables us to plan for the future rather than to fear ever returning to the past. That is reality, and it is irreversible." --Sergei Bagapsh, President, The Republic of Abkhazia, December 15, 2009