



**STATEMENT**  
**by the Organization for Democracy and Economic**  
**Development – GUAM at the Opening Session of**  
**2008 Annual Security Review Conference**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine, the Member Countries of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM. We attach great importance to the Annual Security Review Conference, as an event where it is possible to discuss important security issues, which are on the agenda of each participating State and seek for common solutions. We welcome the decision of the Finnish Chairmanship to focus the deliberations on the issues relevant to the current work done by the OSCE as well as on the usage of tools and mechanisms provided by the OSCE. Speaking about the tools, I would like to mention that all GUAM countries host OSCE field operations, which assist our Governments, in accordance with their mandates, in dealing with security concerns.

Mr. Chairman

The security challenges such as terrorism, illicit trafficking in drugs, weapons and human beings, organized crime became truly transnational in the modern globalized world. The issues such as energy and environmental security have also recently been added to the list of top-priority. The continuing crisis of the CFE Treaty regime has shown us that even one of the most stable elements of security – namely, the arms control regime - became vulnerable. GUAM calls upon the States Parties to the CFE Treaty to intensify the search for a mutually acceptable solution that would take into account the concerns of all State Parties. We hope that a constructive dialogue will prevent further erosion of this conventional arms control regime in Europe. In this context, the GUAM countries reconfirm their full adherence to the principle of indivisibility of security and consider that the comprehensive and cross-dimensional approach of the OSCE towards threats and challenges remains in high demand.

It is well known that the major security concerns of our countries are linked with the unresolved conflicts. The GUAM position on the conflict settlement issue is based on such principles of international law as *respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova*. We continue to stress that the refugees and internally displaced persons should return to their homes and the entire population in the conflict-affected territories should benefit from significant autonomy in full accordance with the relevant norms and principles of international law, UN resolutions and OSCE decisions. In this context, while considering that solutions can be identified

only within the framework of constructive, result-oriented and comprehensive negotiations, we strongly call for the revival of the peace talks in those cases where this process is stagnating. We also continue to stress the necessity *of complete withdrawal of the foreign military forces from the territories of certain GUAM states*. We will talk about the protracted conflicts in the territories of GUAM States in detailed manner during the course of the Working Session 3.

The GUAM States would also like to emphasize that every country has an inherent right to determine its role and strategy both in global and regional security systems, as well as to take decisions on main directions of its security and foreign policy. The highest goal of such policy is ensuring its sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders on the basis of the fundamental principles of international law. We are also convinced that this objective can be achieved without prejudice to and in partnership and cooperation with all countries, first of all with neighboring ones.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by saying that GUAM countries continue to perceive the OSCE as a comprehensive security organization that was designed to provide a collective and cooperation-based peaceful response to existing threats and challenges. We stand ready to continue our fruitful cooperation with the OSCE and wish the Finish Chairmanship every success in leading the organization towards Helsinki Ministerial.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.