



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

S T A T E M E N T
of the Georgian Delegation in the Capacity of the Current Chair of the GUAM
Concerning the GUAM Summit
Vienna 10 July, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement in the capacity of the current chair of the GUAM and inform the Permanent Council that on 1 July 2008, the Third Summit of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM was held in Batumi, Georgia, under the motto “GUAM – Integrating Europe’s East”.

The meetings of the Council of Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, GUAM-USA, GUAM-Japan, GUAM-Czech Republic/Vyshehrad Group, GUAM-Poland, Council of National Coordinators, joint sessions of the heads of sector ministries and agencies and other events took place in the framework of the Summit.

The Council of Heads of State held its plenary session in an enlarged format with participation of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova as well as invited guests: the Presidents of the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Lithuania, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan, high-level representatives of the USA, Japan, the Russian Federation, Romania, Slovak Republic, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Finland (also in the capacity of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office), representative of the French Republic (also in the capacity of the EU Presidency), representatives of international organizations CIS, League of Arab States, International Road Union, Heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Georgia.

The Council noted with satisfaction the significant success in GUAM development, in strengthening political interaction and solidarity of the Member States as well as the stance of GUAM at the international arena.

Mr. Chairman,

The Council signed the Batumi Declaration “GUAM – Integrating Europe’s East”, having reaffirmed the commonality of interests and objectives of the Member States in their aspiration to stand jointly against common risks and threats as well as to develop consistently a space of integration and security in the GUAM region as an integral part of all-European and Euro-Asian areas.

The Council affirmed the role of GUAM as a mechanism of deepening regional, all-European and Euro-Asian integration, expanding the democratic space and promoting European values in the GUAM region, which contributes to the effective approximation of Member States of GUAM and EU.

The importance of implementation of the GUAM Strategy for Sector Cooperation Development in deepening interaction between the Member States in economic, humanitarian and law-enforcement spheres with the aim of ensuring sustainable development, increasing the well-being and prosperity of their peoples was also underlined.

The Heads of State expressed deep concern about the threats posed by the protracted conflicts, aggressive separatism and extremism, international terrorism and other crimes, and confirmed readiness of GUAM to stand jointly against these threats in close cooperation with international structures.

Paying tribute to the victims of 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine, the sides noted the intention of Ukraine to deliver to the international community the truth about the Holodomor as a crime against humanity in order to prevent such tragedies in the future. In this respect, they took special note of the invitation by the President of Ukraine to participate in the events on 22 November 2008 in connection with the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine.

The Batumi Summit reiterated commitments of the Member States to uphold democratic values, respect for human rights and freedoms, the rule of law as well as to preserve and promote spiritual and cultural heritage of the peoples and consolidate the spirit of tolerance. The readiness of GUAM Member states to make an active contribution to ensuring international peace, security and stability was also emphasized.

The Council adopted the Statement on the Development of GUAM Transportation Corridor and the Decision on the Intensification of GUAM Sector Cooperation.

The Council also approved the Report of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM for the Period of the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan (19 June 2007 – 1 July 2008) and the Program of the Chairmanship of Georgia in GUAM for 2008-2009.

The Council took note of the results of the joint sessions of the sector working groups on economic, humanitarian and law-enforcement cooperation at the level of heads of relevant ministries and agencies held in the framework of the Summit.

Wide participation of the States and international organizations at Batumi Summit can be considered as a sign of a growing support to GUAM and acknowledgement of its role in all-European and Euro-Asian integration processes. Importance of strengthening and expanding international relations and promoting GUAM partnership in both European and Asian directions in accordance with the priorities of cooperation defined at the Baku Summit of 2007 was highlighted during the Summit.

The Summit emphasized with satisfaction the broadening of GUAM-US partnership on implementation of new technical assistance projects in various spheres of cooperation, *inter alia*, with the purpose of increasing security of the GUAM transportation corridor and expressed the readiness of GUAM to deepen partner relations with Poland, Japan, Czech Republic, and other interested states and international organization in elaborating and implementing joint projects.

All Documents of the Summit will be also distributed at the OSCE.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman