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**GUAM Statement  
at the 587<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
12 January 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the GUAM please let me join the previous speakers and cordially welcome H.E. Minister Karel De Gucht to the first Permanent Council meeting of 2006 and thank him for thorough speech reflecting Chairmanship priorities for this year. I also would like to wish the Belgian Chairmanship all the best in coping with its demanding, however, important duties, which we believe will be a continuation of a successful tradition maintained during your Chairmanship of the FSC, last year. We also pay tribute to the outgoing Slovenian Chairmanship for its productive and effective activities in the course of 2005.

Mr. Chairman,

At the onset of a new year with its new tasks, challenges and new agendas, the OSCE community, nevertheless has not still been freed from its old problems, that are still awaiting for settlement with expectations still being there.

Speaking more specifically, the issue of unresolved conflicts in OSCE area – in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, Abkhaz and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia and in Transnistrian region of Moldova - is still among the most salient and urgent ones and we feel that it is our duty to constantly bring up the issue of necessity to find just and lasting solution to these painstaking conflicts on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, inviolability of international borders and in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions as well as the relevant OSCE decisions. Strengthening the efforts aimed at democratization and demilitarization of the regions in conflict, including by fulfilling commitments undertaken at the OSCE Istanbul Summit of 1999 with respect to the withdrawal of Russian Federation forces from the Republic of Moldova and Georgia are the key elements. The Belgian Chairmanship is expected to contribute in this regard, as well as all OSCE participating States.

Next year could be a decisive one in the process of the settlement of the Kosovo conflict. It is our firm and unequivocal position that this process should be carried out in full accordance with the UN Security Council resolution 1244 and on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act, and regardless its outcome it must not establish any precedent whatsoever.

OSCE as a comprehensive security organization should be able to deal with the security problems at its playground. It is our aspiration to see that the year 2006 brings new

opportunities for a peaceful resolution of the conflicts, which would be as well effectively explored by the OSCE. The GUAM countries consider that the establishment of the special mechanism within the OSCE dealing with issues regarding the settlement of unresolved conflicts would be a necessary instrument in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

We support the intention of the Belgian Chairmanship to re-balance the Organization's three dimensions and hope it will lead to concrete measures aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE field activities, functioning with particular focus on the main priorities of the participating states.

The GUAM member states voice their support with the planned events by the Chairmanship in the sphere of human dimension. We express our confidence in the professionalism and expertise of ODIHR and further support its operational autonomy. Especially, we hope to see stronger OSCE role in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination in and outside of the OSCE region. We express our belief that the best remedy to alienate prejudice, discrimination and intolerance is to develop solid and concrete strategies and educational approaches, backed by necessary resources. In this respect, we anticipate closer co-operation with relevant OSCE bodies during the Belgian Chairmanship.

OSCE economic dimension is also among the areas where OSCE member states need to exert their efforts to consolidate the achieved results while at the same time search new opportunities for tighter co-operation and enriching the activities in this dimension. We support the Chairmanship's intention to strengthen economic dimension, focusing particularly on transport issues. Having said this, we are looking forward to deliberation and outcomes of the Second Preparatory Conference of the Fourteenth OSCE Economic Forum to be held in Baky on March 16-17.

The GUAM Member States welcome the attention that was paid by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to the settlement of the dispute in the sphere of gas supplies between the companies of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. We take note that the issue of gas supply between the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation remains still open. The GUAM countries support the idea of convening an OSCE Conference on energy security and stand ready to participate in the preparation process and holding of this event. The GUAM countries adhere to a number of fundamental principles of energy cooperation – predictability, reliability, economic acceptability, prevention of pollution – indicated in numerous multilateral documents, including the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of GUAM countries, let me use this opportunity to once again wish you and your team every success in fulfilling the laborious task that is ahead of you.

I thank you.