

**Statement of Amb. Valeri Chechelashvili
Secretary General of Organization
for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM
at the Astana OSCE Summit
(Astana, 1 December 2010)**

At the outset, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the OSCE for the invitation to attend participate in the first OSCE Summit in 21st century. This Organization represents the only all-European regional platform, and provides unique chance for countries and international organizations to generate new initiatives and elaborate new approaches to face common challenges.

The GUAM Member States are guided by the principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states, inviolability of their internationally recognized borders, and non-interference in their internal affairs as well as other universally recognized principles and norms of the international law. Important principle of GUAM is the decision taking by consensus that makes it possible to take fully into account the interests of every Member State and in contrast to many other international organizations distinct beneficiary GUAM from them.

The main purposes of GUAM are:

- promoting democratic values, ensuring the rule of law, and respect for human rights;
- ensuring sustainable development;
- strengthening international and regional security and stability;
- deepening European integration for the establishment of common security space, and expansion of cooperation in economic and humanitarian spheres;
- development of social and economic, transport, energy, scientific and technical, and humanitarian potential of the Parties;
- intensification of political interaction and practical cooperation in the field of mutual interest.

GUAM is an Organization based on the developed network of mechanisms and instruments of interaction including GUAM Strategy for Sector Cooperation Development. Working Bodies GUAM are accordingly streamlining their activities with a view of GUAM projects and programs implementation. Country-Coordinators, in close cooperation with Chairmanship are developing activities to translate potential of the Organization into tangible results, ultimately contributing to regional stability, integration and improving of living standards.

Under the Ukrainian Chairmanship GUAM focused activities on the process of generation, elaboration and implementation of concrete projects and programs of GUAM cooperation. GUAM member states have very close, if not coinciding set of

foreign policy priorities and consider GUAM as format, reinforcing position of individual member state in the network of international relations.

Presidency and country-coordinators of the Sectoral Working Groups on Economy and Trade, on Transport, on Energy, on Information Technologies, and the Steering Committee of the GUAM Project on Trade and Transportation Facilitation are facilitating their efforts to deepen the GUAM Free Trade Zone and develop necessary legal platform, including that one in spheres of free movement of capital, services, and labor. Sector cooperation bodies are invited to aggressively initiate practically oriented projects of economic cooperation, including those in the “GUAM+” format, with a broad engagement of business circles and in this light to capitalize on positive GUAM experience, particularly in tourism sector. In near future activities of GUAM Business Council will be launched as a full-fledged component of the GUAM organizational structure.

GUAM touring administrations are actively implementing Baku Declaration of the Heads of the GUAM member states’ tourist agencies and the relevant Action Plan from 25 June 2010 regarding the promotion of the GUAM Joint Tourist Product on the Japanese market as well as the recommendations on further development of cooperation in spheres of culture, science and education, and health care.

GUAM internal trade, less than 2 billion USD in the year of 2006 (GUAM Free Trade Zone was established on GUAM Kyiv Summit of 23 May 2006), hit the ceiling of 4 billion USD in 2008, despite world financial crisis and Russian aggression to Georgia, which particularly undermined international trade and transport, as central highway and railway were blocked, number of critical bridges destroyed. In 2009, due to the consequences of world global crisis, we witnessed 30% trade decline down to 2.7 billion USD. Tendencies of this year 9 months demonstrate substantial upgrade, had already almost reached 3 billion USD. So that annual 2010 trade turnover will result between 4.3 and 4.4 billion USD. In the longer perspective, trade relations will further intensify and trade turnover will reach double digit billion USD level in 4-5 years.

This year we had very interesting new component in GUAM internal trade - deliveries of the Azerbaijan oil to Ukraine. During first 9 months of current year it approximately 1.5 million tons of oil with the total value of more than 700 million USD were supplied from Azerbaijan to Ukraine through GUAM transport transit corridor. This covers up to 25 % of Ukraine’s total consumption and is a serious figure reinforcing position of the Ukrainian consumers on negotiations with traditional suppliers. Implementation of this project vividly demonstrates how international regional cooperation organization can assist its member states to get an access to new markets, to utilize the transit potential, and diversify energy sources. On the other hand smooth transit of additional 1.5 million tons through GUAM corridor is a manifestation of our common transport transit potential.

Activities of the sector cooperation bodies in spheres of law enforcement, prevention of the emergencies, and border control gained new impetus this year. GUAM National Coordinators took under their control number of most important initiatives, namely the fulfillment of the Plan of Measures on the equipment of the GUAM IIMS with the means of encryption, Decision of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to adopt proposals of the GUAM member states' border control authorities to an Eastern partnership Flagship initiative "Integrated Border Management" project on securing border control at the GUAM Transport Corridor. Number of interesting programs is planned within the framework of GUAM Working Group on Emergencies, including "GUAM+" format.

In addition to a number of bilateral operations between the appropriate GUAM Member States, two joint law-enforcement operations "Narcostop-2010" on combating drug trafficking and "Perekhvat (Interception)-2010" on combating trade in persons were carried out respectively from 15 September to 15 October and from 1 to 30 October this year. The intergovernmental Protocol on protection of information within the channels of the GUAM Interstate Information Management System (ISIMS) signed last December in the margins of the 16th OSCE Ministerial meeting in Helsinki was ratified/confirmed by the GUAM Member States and entered into force. Based on it, special ceremony of contract signing between GUAM and the company-supplier on delivery of information cryptographic protection devices for communication channels of IIAS (Interstate Information Analytical System) had taken place in GUAM Secretariat on November, 24th, 2010 in the presence of Deputy Foreign Ministers – GUAM National Coordinators, who were conducting their regular meeting. In next 5 six months respective equipment will be installed in four GUAM VLEC National Information Analytical Centers (NIACs). Apart of that, the first phase of the modernization of the NIACs was completed in July and the second phase is being implemented now. All mentioned activities will upgrade capacity of integrated GUAM law enforcement cooperation to fight with different manifestations of organized crime to qualitatively new level.

In law-enforcement and border control areas, GUAM extends its interaction with other international organizations. In addition to conducting in cooperation with UNODC first joint UNODC/GUAM Workshop on Nuclear Terrorism, the second one - Workshop for Criminal Justice Officials on International Cooperation in Matters related to Combating Terrorism - was organized in GUAM Secretariat in Kyiv in January 2010.

The main goal of GUAM is to establish space of stability and integration in the Black sea – Caspian Sea region; space of partnership, based on the European standards, criterias and practice. While implementing this main goal, we are using two main avenues of cooperation: 1) elaboration, signature and implementation of GUAM

format multilateral legal instruments, and 2) generation, elaboration and implementation of GUAM projects and programs.

We believe that this stage of our development is particularly important. We are engaged in active process of generating and implementing of GUAM projects and programs of cooperation, some of them being already in the pipeline. It implies further improvement of our culture of cooperation and quality of targets, better interaction at different levels and in different formats. Thanks to the contribution of the Member States we have upgraded our cooperative capacity. We express our thanks to all those who have contributed to this task, including our external partners – USA, Poland, Czech Republic and Japan. We are open for cooperation with any external partner – being it state, international organization or just legal person, provided this cooperation is based on the principles of international law and principles of GUAM Statutory Documents.

For those who are interested in GUAM to I invite to visit our web-site – www.guam-organization.org in order to find more information about our organization – both basic and operational.

To conclude with, I would like to reiterate my sincere gratitude to OSCE for the invitation to take part in Astana OSCE Summit.