



Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE

**Statement on behalf of the GUUAM**  
**at the 2003 Mediterranean Seminar**  
**“The comprehensive approach to security:**  
**The OSCE experience and its relevance for the Mediterranean region”**  
**(Session 1. Conflict prevention and confidence building)**

As prepared for delivery by Ambassador V. Ohryzko  
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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the GUUAM Member States – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Recent events in the world have underscored the necessity of effective preventive actions in international relations that could only be pursued on the basis of profound analysis of dynamics and trends in the world’s evolution. Placed in this context, the role of today’s seminar is undoubtedly more important than ever before.

The GUUAM Member States have always been standing for a more active and consistent role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict rehabilitation. We also advocate the need to keep in the OSCE focus and to settle so-called “frozen” conflicts. Inadequate reaction or lack of attention to the crisis situations in certain regions negatively affects the security of participating States and the political image of the Organization as the only all-inclusive pan-European security organization.

We are convinced that the OSCE should also be consistent in upholding its norms and principles including sovereignty and territorial integrity, which are of fundamental significance for security, stability and co-operation in Euro-Atlantic area. The process of strengthening of the OSCE should include as an important part the increasing partnership with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation. We believe that all participating States and all Partners for Co-operation will benefit from addressing the inter-state and intra-state conflicts within the framework of the OSCE.

Over the years the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation have moved towards closer co-operation and deeper dialogue. The experience gained by the OSCE in exercising its concept of comprehensive approach to security, including all OSCE dimensions, may offer a model for similar approaches to be undertaken in the Mediterranean region as well as in the Middle East.

As pledged at the Istanbul Summit, leaders from the 55 OSCE countries stated that they will encourage the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to draw on the Organization's expertise in setting up structures and mechanisms in the Mediterranean for early warning, preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention.

The Porto Ministerial meeting acknowledged that the OSCE will continue to foster co-operation and dialogue with Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation on subjects of common concern.

The OSCE has created a set of tools and mechanisms to increase its effectiveness in countering risks and challenges to security within its region. This "toolkit" covers political-military, economic and the human dimensions, and it is precisely with regard to such issues that the OSCE may play a role in offering its comparative advantage and expertise for the establishment and implementation of similar mechanisms as required for the Mediterranean region.

Within the Organization we elaborated a number of well-tested instruments that contributed greatly to peace and stability in Europe. They could be applied both at regional and sub-regional level, in bilateral or multilateral relations. In this respect a set of norms, confidence and security building measures contained in Code of Conduct on political-military aspects of security, Vienna Document, Document on small arms and light weapons and other documents could serve as a good example to be followed.

Along with traditional tasks in the field of arms control, confidence and security building measures the OSCE continues to pay close attention to the evolving nature of relatively new risks and challenges. Discriminations and intolerance, territorial claims and border disputes, arms proliferation remain on the list of the issues that have to be further addressed. Many of new threats come from non-state actors. They are often cross-dimensional, not respecting national borders and therefore increasingly require our common response.

We do hope that the discussions and concrete steps on these issues will bring us closer to establishing the international system, capable, inter alia, of timely and efficient prevention of armed conflicts. This dimension should become pivotal in the philosophy of the OSCE activities in the future.

The adequate response to the new threats should reflect our common desire for a strong peace and security framework based firmly on the international rule of law.

The GUUAM States, taking into account the emerging new tasks in this regard, undertake consistent and coordinated efforts in order to strengthen regional security, stability and prosperity. To this end we have activated our co-operation in combating terrorism, separatism, ethnic hatred, extremism and other challenges to international security.

The GUUAM firmly condemns terrorism in all its manifestations. Our goal is to consolidate efforts of the GUUAM Member States in combating terrorism, organized crime, drugs trafficking and other dangerous crimes as well as creation of the conditions to prevent terrorist, extremist and criminal intended use of transport corridors. Our countries joined the antiterrorist coalition from the very beginning and have made significant contribution to its activities. Today we may say that the GUUAM States take part in implementation of all 12 universal antiterrorist conventions through, inter alia, appropriate bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

We established the GUUAM Virtual Center for Fight Against Terrorism, Organized Crime, Drug Trafficking and Other Dangerous Types of Crimes and GUUAM Interstate Information Management System.

Establishment of the Virtual center sets up an efficient information exchange, creates conditions for upgrading technical equipment and information technologies, harmonization and matching of the internal legislation to the international standards, staff trainings, specialists and experience exchange.

The State boundaries security guard departments of the GUUAM Member-States cooperate closely for creation of the joint informational space, as well as joining to All-European border informational system with the purpose to prevent violation of the law at the time of border crossing, combat smuggling of weapons, drugs, radioactive substances and nuclear materials which can be used in the production of weapons of mass distraction.

Regular management meetings of border guard departments of the GUUAM Member-States are taking place with the object of activities co-ordination regarding joint efforts in the customs affairs cooperation, tracing of obvious violations and detection of potential violations by means of information exchange of the relevant customs departments, qualification upgrading of the border guard personnel, improvement and unification of the state border crossing procedures.

We co-operate closely in the field of prevention of emergencies and elimination of their effects. The activity in this sphere concentrates on implementation of prediction mechanisms and monitoring of natural and man-caused emergency cases, specialists exchange, holding meetings and practical consultations, trainings and joint exercises, creation of databases for coordination of actions with the object of elimination of the consequences of emergency cases.

It is our conviction that the abovementioned experience of the GUUAM can be duly utilized in the Mediterranean region too. Our States are ready to provide assistance in implementation of best practice of GUUAM. Such contribution is believed to be helpful for Mediterranean region in further improving of conflict prevention capabilities and strengthening confidence building process.

Let me remind you also that the conflict prevention functions of the OSCE and its partner organizations were at the top of the agenda of the OSCE Seminar on Preventive Functions of the OSCE: Experience, Possibilities, Tasks, which took place in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 8 and 9 October 2001.

Mr. Chairman,

As I already mentioned, regional multilateral co-operation is a very powerful instrument to increase transparency and confidence. In that respect the Ukrainian initiative to establish confidence and security building regime covering the naval activities in the Black Sea could be referred to.

The Black Sea coastal States (the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine) recognizing their responsibility in promoting peace, security and stability in the Black Sea region conducted negotiations from 1998 to 2001 and agreed a set of specific measures aimed at increasing transparency and co-operation in the naval field. These measures include information exchange on naval forces and their plans to conduct naval activities, visits to naval bases and participation in joint exercises, co-operation in educational, sport and cultural activities. The participating States started to implement the Document on 1 January 2003.

We are convinced that naval Confidence and Security Building Measures together with another important document in the field of naval co-operation, which is the BLACKSEAFOR Agreement, constitute a solid basis for strengthening stability and security in the Black Sea. We would be ready to share our experience and provide additional information on that issue.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress that there is a need to devote more attention to interaction with international and regional organizations beyond the OSCE area. It is vital for achieving today's goals of our Organization.

We are confident that further expansion of dialogue between the OSCE and its regional partners belongs to the priority tasks. A regional activity could significantly contribute to strengthening stability and security in various hot spots in the OSCE area. The successful examples of such interaction prove that the OSCE could and should actively use this important political tool and to rely increasingly on regional organizations to assume more responsibility, especially for conflict prevention.

The GUUAM stands ready to cooperate fully with the OSCE and to contribute to pursuing its responsibilities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.