



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the GUUAM Summit

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul Jones
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 28, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the results of the April 22nd summit of the GUUAM states in Chisinau, at which the leaders of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova reaffirmed their commitment to democracy and the rule of law, and to expanding their cooperation in the areas of economic development and the fight against crime. We welcome the role GUUAM plays in advancing regional security and stability.

We continue to back the GUUAM-U.S. Framework Program - which was referred to in the joint statement circulated to all delegations yesterday, April 27th - within which projects are geared toward handling many different regional challenges. We are encouraged to learn that the Trade and Transport Facilitation and Virtual Law Enforcement Center projects are coming to fruition. They should contribute to boosting legitimate trade while stemming destabilizing threats such as regional trafficking, be it in persons, drugs, or weapons.

The United States also reiterates its support for the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, and stands ready to continue to assist in efforts toward this end.

Decisive action and effective follow-through are critical to making GUUAM an effective international organization. The GUUAM member states can be assured that the United States will remain a firm partner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.