



**Statement by the Organization for Democracy and Economic
Development – GUAM at the
2007 Annual Security Review Conference**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to welcome all the participants of this year's Annual Security Review Conference and wish them target-oriented and successful working event.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine, the Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM. I am especially delighted to have been able to address this Conference at a time when GUAM Summit is taking place in Baky these days, in parallel to ASRC.

The evolving world brings new challenges and a changing security environment, which require adequate, as well as timely responses and instruments. However, time has not changed our joint assessment of the importance of the OSCE as a comprehensive security organization created to prevent and respond to threats to our common security and well-being.

The issue of energy cooperation is among the priorities of GUAM, since energy producing and transit countries are represented in this organization. The Member States of GUAM possess vast hydrocarbon resources as well as strategic routes for their transportation to the world markets. We have succeeded in the development of the diverse *energy infrastructure* capable both to support the development and export of national hydrocarbon resources as well as the transit of the resources of Central Asian partners to international markets. Two important regional pipelines – Baky Tbilisi Ceyhan (oil) and Baky Tbilisi Erzurum (natural gas) core elements of the East-West Energy corridor, have been completed and commissioned. We believe that this will further contribute to the diversification of energy supply in the OSCE area.

It is worth mentioning that combating international terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking is one of the main objectives of the GUAM. We have developed consolidated efforts with a view to increasing the efficiency of our

cooperation in these areas. The successful functioning of GUAM Virtual Center for the fight against terrorism testifies to our intensive work in this area.

Let me emphasize that the prospects of achieving lasting security, stability, prosperity and harmonious cooperation of all the countries in the OSCE region, is heavily dependent on the final settlement of protracted conflicts and our ability to exert all necessary efforts to provide durable solutions to them that will be based on the respect to the norms and principles of international law, such as sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

Security threats that some of the GUAM members are facing have always been on our agenda. The existing conflicts in the Eastern districts of Moldova, Abkhaz and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan continue threaten security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, undermine sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of these states, while creating obstacles for full-fledged development of their societies.

We strongly believe that there is no alternative to the peaceful resolution of these conflicts, which should be based on generally recognized norms and principles of international law, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the states, as well as on the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and OSCE decisions. We, therefore, call for a more devoted and target-oriented settlement efforts by the international community, including the OSCE.

Against this backdrop, we are convinced that the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to seriously hinder the process of development of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the whole region of the South Caucasus in general. It is our firm and unequivocal position that this conflict must be resolved on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, first of all those pertaining to the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of international borders, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the OSCE decisions.

The ultimate objective of the settlement process is to elaborate and define the model and legal frameworks of the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh region within Azerbaijan. Proceeding from the standards of democracy, rule of law and human rights, we believe that process of definition of any status shall take place with direct, full and equal participation of *entire* population of the region, comprising Armenian and Azerbaijani communities.

The GUAM Member States welcome the Georgian efforts to find, together with its international partners, a peaceful settlement to the territorial conflicts in Georgia.

We view the new dynamics in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, including establishment of the Provisional Administration as an unique chance to improve the situation on the ground, to create a “win-win” situation for all stakeholders. We support true, result-oriented and inclusive dialogue for the representatives of the region’s community who believe in peace and who see the future of the region within the Georgian state, while advocating with conviction for the interests of the local population.

I thank you.