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**Statement by Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova
at the 607th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
4 May 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the GUAM states Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova, please let me join the previous speakers and cordially welcome Deputy Minister of Ukraine for Emergency Situations and for the Protection of the Population from the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe Mr. V. Kholosha to the Permanent Council and thank him for comprehensive report reflecting the situation with the overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and perspectives of this process.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chernobyl accident resulted in many changes, not only in the affected countries, but also around the whole world. We feel that it is our duty to bring the issue of Chernobyl to the attention of all members of the international community again and again with the aim not to forget about what happened 20 years ago in order to prevent such catastrophes in future.

We are confident that overcoming the consequences of the catastrophe as such is not possible without duly consideration and effective implementation of measures aimed at resolving its most important impacts: the physical impacts, in terms of health and environmental effects and the psycho-social impacts on the affected populations.

However, this goal can be achieved only after all obligation and commitments undertaken in connection with the shutdown of the Chernobyl NPP, in particular Ottawa Memorandum of 1995, will be duly fulfilled. In this regard, we wish to express our appreciation of the efforts of the Government of Ukraine in this field who strictly complied with its obligations despite having specific, distinct problems caused by the allocation of the Chernobyl NPP on its territory.

Taking this opportunity we would like to underline the efforts by the Government of Ukraine for organizing the International Conference "Twenty Years after Chernobyl Accident. Future Outlook" that was held in Kiev, Ukraine, on April 24-26, 2006. We do believe that its results will be helpful in planning future activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Even twenty years after the Chernobyl catastrophe its consequences remain the challenge for affected countries and international community. Our countries are ready to participate actively in their overcoming and hope that the OSCE with its expertise and experience will not stand aside. In this connection we confirm our intention to develop cooperation in accordance to the Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of the Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, adopted by Ministerial Council in Ljubljana in 2005.

We support new projects and initiatives in this field and encourage concerted efforts of Participating States, the relevant international organizations, financial institutions and other interested donors to effectively tackle challenges of the Chernobyl disaster.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova, let me use this opportunity to once again wish Mr. V. Kholosha and his team every success in fulfilling the laborious task that is ahead of us.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman