



**Talking points for the GUUAM Statement
at the 3rd Special Meeting of
the UNCTC with International, Regional, and Sub-Regional Organizations**

Vienna, 12 March 2004

- It is a pleasure to speak at this important meeting on behalf of GUUAM states- Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. GUUAM welcomes the fact that the UNCTC dialog with international, regional, and sub-regional organizations has become regular and, in this regard, extends its appreciation to the OSCE and UNODC for jointly hosting and inviting GUUAM to attend this follow-up meeting. Such special meetings provide a useful opportunity to exchange information about the work done by the organizations in the field of counter-terrorism as well as to share information on needs and concerns of their member states in the fight against terrorism and, in particular, in the process of UNSCR 1373 implementation.
- We deem it relevant to continue the practice of publishing reports of the organizations about their current initiatives and activity planned in the field which could facilitate effective cooperation and counteraction between the UNCTC and the organizations, on one hand, and between the organizations themselves, on the other hand, especially with the view of strengthening capacity of their states, given that the national action is often the first and main line of defense against the threat. More frequent regional events conducted under the auspices of the UNCTC would also foster discussions of different aspects of contemporary terrorism and contribute to constructive and practical counter-terrorism cooperation.
- The international terrorism is a complex and changing phenomenon and will continue to adapt to the global political and economic environment. In these terms, in order to develop appropriate and effective counter-terrorism measures it is important to intensify research and in-depth analysis of multifaceted and complex characteristics of international terrorism, its forms, scope, methods and trends, terrorist tactics, to collaborate on terrorism threat assessment and to share the best practices.
- The fight against terrorism and other illegal activities as well as security of energy and transport corridors remain the major issues on the GUUAM agenda. These days GUUAM efforts are underway to build an effective mechanism for counter-terrorism cooperation and coordination based on common values and interests. Its two main projects are the “Project on Establishment of the GUUAM Virtual Center for combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous types of crimes” and the “Project on Creation of the GUUAM Interstate Information Management System (IIMS)”.
- The mentioned Virtual Center presents a unique structure with the streamlined information management system which will allow the GUUAM States to tackle the terrorist and other illegal incidents within the region in an effective, interactive, rapid and mobile manner. More specifically, the IIMS provides for simultaneous participation of the representatives of all relative agencies (law enforcement,

intelligence, border control, customs service etc.) in each of the GUUAM states in jointly addressing the specific programs related to fighting threats and providing security of transport corridors and favorable conditions for trade and transport via on-line communication, analysis and exchange of operational information on law enforcement activities, as well as joint operations and coordination of major crime investigations.

- The Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of the GUUAM Participating States in the Field of Combat Against Terrorism, Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Types of Crimes and Agreement on Establishment of the GUUAM Virtual Center for Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Drug Trafficking and Other Dangerous Types of Crimes and GUUAM Interstate Information Management System (IIMS) which was signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the GUUAM Member States during the 2002-2003 GUUAM Yalta Summits constitute necessary legal basis for the implementation of these projects. As to the further steps towards the implementation of the project, an expert team composed of law enforcement and IT professionals from each of the GUUAM Country accompanied by the US and SECI Center experts elaborated a number of working documents including essential legal and technical instruments, plans and programs necessary for proper functioning of the Virtual Center and IIMS (Baky, October – December 2003). At the present stage the package of documents prepared by the Baky Working Group is passing through the interagency consideration and approval procedure in each of the GUUAM State. The package, prepared by the Working Group, includes:
 - "General Review of the Criminal Situation in the GUUAM Region";
 - "Organization and Functioning Rules of the GUUAM Virtual Center";
 - "Concept of the GUUAM Interstate Information Management System";
 - "Organizational and Technical Proposals for Creation of the GUUAM IIMS";
 - "General Principles of the Information Exchange within the GUUAM Virtual Center";
 - "Plan of Creation and Operation of the Virtual Center for Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illegal Drug Trafficking and other Serious Kinds of Crimes and Interstate Information Management System for 2004»;
 - Organizational and Technical Principles of Creating the GUUAM Interstate Information Management System (IIMS).
- GUUAM cooperates with some international organizations with high counter-terrorism and organized crime profile such as SECI Center, as well as with some active partner countries of the UNCTC. Likewise, the representatives of UNODC and OSCE attended a number of GUUAM Anti-Terrorism Working Group meetings. We hope that the UNCTC may also attend these meetings. The future IIMS with a high capacity database would be beneficial for other international organizations, for example, UNCTC itself, UNODC, OSCE, SECI, Interpol, Europol, and other partners which could be connected to it as well.
- At present the US is a main donor of the GUUAM counter-terrorism projects. The EU has recently also expressed its readiness to financially assist these GUUAM projects. However, despite the positive progress in the implementation of the projects, there is still a certain way to go in establishing and starting up the Virtual Center/IIMS. For instance, there is a need for highly qualified IT expertise and technical assistance provided by the interested international organizations and countries, which would be very much appreciated.

- Taking up this opportunity, we would propose to arrange a joint OSCE-GUAM meeting of IT specialists to elaborate the package of technical algorithms for IIMS.
 - According to the agreements in the counter-terrorism field approved by the GUUAM countries, it is envisaged to harmonize their relevant legislation and bring it in line with the international norms and standards. Given the OSCE and UNODC experience in the legislation drafting, we would welcome any consultative assistance in reviewing the existing legislation of the GUUAM States to fight the scourge of terrorism.
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