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Statement
by Azerbaijan, also on behalf of Georgia
at the 630th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

ENGLISH only

25 October 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Speaking on behalf of Azerbaijan and Georgia, Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, I would like to express our appreciation to the efforts undertaken by the mediators and observers in the Transnistrian settlement process aimed at resumption of the negotiations in the 5+2 format.

We welcome the consultations in the framework of mediators and observers, as well in the 5+1 format that took place in Odessa, Ukraine, on 17-18 October 2006. In this context, we attach great value to the European Union and United States involvement into the negotiation format, which is proving to be very important for positive movement in the settlement process. We are pleased to mention, particularly, the valuable contributions, made by the EU, Ukraine and other actors, to the settlement of the Transnistrian problem through implementation of the EU Border Assistance Mission as well as of the Joint Statement of Moldovan and Ukrainian Prime Ministers of 30 December 2005.

We welcome the common position expressed by the mediators, observers and the Republic of Moldova on the final scope of the negotiation process – a peaceful resolution of the Transnistrian issue based on upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and elaborating a special status for Transnistrian region.

We regret that consultations in Odessa have not succeeded in the resumption of the 5+2 talks due to the obstructionist position of Tiraspol. We call on the Transnistrian regime to return without preconditions to the negotiation table and work constructively on the issues of demilitarisation, democratisation and elaboration of the legal status of the Transnistrian region within the Republic of Moldova. We hope to see further progress on that.

We recall our previously expressed concerns on the lack of progress in the process of withdrawal of the Russian troops from the Republic of Moldova in

fulfilling its commitments undertaken at the OSCE Istanbul Summit of 1999, which remain as important elements of the settlement process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.