



STATEMENT
by the Delegation of Azerbaijan on behalf of the GUAM
at 637th meeting of the Permanent Council

ENGLISH only

November 16, 2006

The GUAM Member States express their concern over the so-called referendum and presidential elections held in the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia, on November 12, 2006.

Holding of the so-called referendum and presidential elections will hamper the negotiation process aimed at comprehensive resolution of the conflict, runs contrary to the standards and values of democracy, rule of law and human rights and, thus, shall have no legal effect whatsoever and their results shall be considered as null and void. Any kind of voting in the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia should be carried out in accordance with the legislation of Georgia and with direct participation of the entire population of the region.

The GUAM Member States underline that any support or calls for support to the so-called referendum and presidential elections contradict the universally recognized norms and principles of international law pertaining to the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, inviolability of borders and inadmissibility of interference in their internal affairs. Such acts of destructive character are directed against the peace process and designed to impose a fait accompli situation and to mislead the population of the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia.

The GUAM Member States strongly condemn the acts that contradict the spirit, provisions and principles of the documents signed by the parties involved in the conflict resolution process.

The GUAM welcomes additional ideas recently offered by Georgia with a view to conducting creatively and constructively a political dialogue between the conflict sides.

The GUAM Member States call on all OSCE participating States and other international organizations to use their influence and promote internationally accepted solution, based on recognition of the territorial integrity of Georgia. In this regard, the GUAM Member States support the position of H.E. Karel de Gucht, the CiO of the OSCE expressed on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.