



**GUAM Statement
at the OSCE 17th Economic and Environmental Forum
19 January 2009**

Madam Moderator,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM. I would like to express our appreciation to the Greek Chairmanship and to the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for the preparation of the Forum.

GUAM Member States reiterate their support for the theme of the Forum proposed by the Greek Chairmanship. We share the view that uncontrolled migration flows could threaten security and stability of the participating States. Taking into account that the migration phenomenon is directly affected by various economic and social factors, we believe this to be a logical continuation of the topics taken up by the previous OSCE chairmanships and stand ready to contribute to the efforts of the Greek Chairmanship on this issue.

Madam Moderator,

International migration plays an important role in national, regional and global affairs. The complex and often contradictory effects of migratory flows today affect nearly every country. It is therefore only natural to see worldwide attention to migration issues growing and finding its place within comprehensive debates at various fora.

OSCE could play a positive role in migration management at international level. OSCE with its cross-dimensional character can provide a good platform for political dialogue and experience exchange among its participating States and Partners for Cooperation on the broad spectrum of migratory matters. Particularly, OSCE, in co-operation with other partner organizations, could promote and facilitate the exchange of best practices as well as capacity-building activities for government officials, social partners, recruitment agencies and civil society to develop and implement more effective migration management policies that would help in countering illegal migration as we have already discussed at the Preparatory conference in Prague last year. Moreover, OSCE could be instrumental in facilitating the sharing of experience concerning the development and implementation of circular migration programmes in its region. It can also promote good practice exchange in bilateral labour agreements.

We also would like to underline the importance of the OSCE's close cooperation and coordination with other international actors in particular with the IOM and UN system. The close interagency cooperation may be extremely helpful to avoid duplication and overlapping as well as to promote coordination and coherence among various international organizations. At the same time, the OSCE could actively follow the activity of the Global Migration Group

comprised of several international agencies dealing with migration issues as we believe GMG constitutes a useful tool to enhance coordination and cooperation among agencies.

The OSCE participating States should take effective measures to combat irregular migration flows and simultaneously facilitate legal channels for migration. Further dialogue and exchange of information should be developed among the OSCE participating States on their needs for labour force and possibilities for facilitated labour migration schemes, including negotiations on bilateral labour migration agreements and quotas. The OSCE participating States may also co-operate in combating irregular labour migration and undocumented employment of migrants, through controlling working sites with migrant workers and agencies carrying out recruitment and employments services to prevent abusive practices of some of these operators.

We also remain convinced that the aspect of respect and protection of rights of migrants in the countries of their destination continues to be an integral part of the topic of migration management. In this regard, we welcome the commitment expressed by the Greek Chairmanship to duly address this issue in the course of the events in the framework of the Forum process. We are looking forward to a productive discussion on this matter, especially in the second segment of the Forum, where the review of implementation of the OSCE commitments related to migration will take place.

We expect the Forum to remain seized with the issue of environmentally induced migration, and we hope that the discussions will result in specific projects.

Madam Moderator,
Dear colleagues,

Finally, I would like to wish the Forum successful deliberations, positive and concrete outcome.

I thank you.