



PC.DEL/11/10
14 January 2010

ENGLISH only

GUAM Statement

at the 789th (Special) meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council,
January 14, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM. We congratulate H.E. Secretary of State and Minister Kanat Saudabayev on the assumption of the functions of Chairman in Office of the OSCE and join other delegations in welcoming Distinguished Minister to the Permanent Council in this new capacity. We listened with great interest to the video address by President of Kazakhstan H.E. N.Nazarbayev, and we thank you for your impressive address outlining the road map of implementation of Kazakh Chairmanship priorities.

We would like also to emphasize the friendly relations and fruitful working contacts between permanent missions of GUAM Member States and Kazakhstan to the OSCE, which we hope will strengthen more throughout the current Chairmanship period.

Mr. Minister,

We are pleased to note that the issue of protracted conflicts is among priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship.

Over years, we have been witnessing lack of long-awaited solutions to the outstanding problems existing in the OSCE area. Indeed, the protracted conflicts on the territories of some of GUAM Member States still remain among the most salient and urgent ones. We are deeply convinced that our Organization and its participating States must not reconcile with the situation that has emerged in the Abkhaz and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the Transdnistrian region of Moldova.

The GUAM states firmly believe that settlement of conflicts on the territories of the GUAM States shall be carried out exclusively on the basis of the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as in the appropriate documents and decisions of the OSCE. All of these documents

prove that the territorial integrity of GUAM Member States is the basis for the settlement of the conflicts.

The issue of mass violation of human rights during the armed conflicts is a matter of serious concern for GUAM Member States in particular problems related to refugees and IDPs, as long as thousand of peaceful civilians remain forcefully displaced from their homes as a result of armed conflicts and ethnic cleansings. We believe that more OSCE efforts should be directed towards elaboration of concrete mechanisms to ensure their safe and dignified return.

We welcome your intention to pay your first visit to the countries of South Caucasus and expect a contribution to be made by Chairmanship with regard to the settlement of the conflicts existing in the GUAM area.

We are convinced that the Special Representative on protracted conflicts Ambassador Nurgaliev will spare no effort in facilitating dialogue in the conflict areas and bringing back on track negotiation process where appropriate.

We wish the present Chairmanship to exercise the strong leadership of the Organization which should increase the motivation of all its participating States to be adherent to the agreed commitments and principles of the OSCE as it is reflected in the Chairmanship's motto under the word "tradition", and mobilize support of international community for the solution of protracted conflicts. In this context, we support the intention of Kazakh Chairmanship to convene after ten years the meeting of Heads of States and believe that this meeting will provide a great opportunity for all participating States to reaffirm their strong commitment to the Principles of Helsinki Decalogue. We are confident that during our exploratory consultations we will identify meaningful agenda for such an important event.

Clearly, while talking about security we first have in mind protracted conflicts in the GUAM area. We hope that GUAM which has always been determined towards cooperation with the OSCE, and aimed at contributing to the comprehensive OSCE efforts towards international security will be involved to Corfu process.

Mr. Minister,

Your address to PC has demonstrated that Kazakhstan promotes a balanced approach to the OSCE activities and holds all three dimensions within our organization of equal significance.

Indeed, economic dimension of security is of great importance for the GUAM. Our states have the key geographical position and our territories constitute a natural corridor linking Europe and Asia. With the aim of overall development

of this corridor GUAM Member States undertake common efforts for harmonizing legislation, eliminating barriers to economic and commercial relations, developing infrastructure and ensuring security of transport corridors. To this end, we are implementing projects on Free Trade Zone, Trade and Transport Facilitation and Virtual Center, which have already concrete positive results. We are interested in the development of Trans-Caspian links of GUAM corridor and express our readiness for cooperation in this direction.

One more important aspect of security where GUAM takes efforts is fighting against terrorism, illicit drug proliferation, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. In this regard, GUAM also underlines with satisfaction the intention of Kazakh Chairmanship to keep these issues among its priorities.

GUAM also appreciates the efforts by Chairmanship to develop intercultural and interreligious dialogue and tolerance and stands ready to make its own contribution for this dimension of security.

In conclusion, dear Minister, we would like to wish you every success in fulfilling the laborious task that is ahead of you and assure you of our readiness to closely work with your team in Vienna led by our good friend and colleague Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.