



**GUAM Statement**  
**at the 632<sup>nd</sup> (Special) meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council** ENGLISH only

**27 October 2006**

Mr.Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Moldova, the member states of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM and welcome the Prime Minister of Georgia, His Excellency Mr.Zurab Nogaideli at the Special Permanent Council Meeting.

Our delegations support the efforts of the Georgian government directed at deepening democratic reforms in the country and ensuring peaceful resolution of the existing conflicts, based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, within its internationally recognized borders.

We welcome Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. Our delegations consider the recent progress in the implementation of the Individual Partnership Action Plan as a demonstration of a strong commitment of the Government of Georgia to pursuing democratic reforms necessary for integration into the North Atlantic Alliance. We also wish to welcome the enhanced relationship of Georgia with the EU in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the recent signing of a joint statement concerning the Georgia-EU Action Plan.

We support Georgia's commitment to secure a peaceful resolution of the conflicts, as well as EU's readiness to do its part in promoting this process. Our countries are prepared to support these efforts in every possible way.

In this connection, we welcome the EU's contribution towards the economic reconstruction programme in South Ossetia and the successful outcome of the first Steering Committee meeting on 6 October. We wish to associate ourselves with the EU call on the OSCE and donors to implement the proposed projects without delay.

We share the disappointment that the Joint Control Commission meeting on 12 and 13 October in Vladikavkaz did not produce any results. We urge all parties to undertake confidence-building measures in and around the conflict regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and focus on reaching a peaceful resolution of the conflicts fully respecting Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In this regard, we welcome the commitment of Georgia to the Peace Plan presented by your Excellency last year and supported at the OSCE Ljubljana Ministerial Council, and encourage the sides to the negotiation process to enter in a constructive dialogue on this issue. We reiterate our support for internationalisation of the peacekeeping operation in South Ossetia, Georgia and on further expansion of the existing negotiation process.

We note with appreciation the EU willingness to promote the effectiveness of confidence-building measures in South Ossetia and its proposal, as a first step, to increase the number of OSCE military observers in the conflict zone, who will work with the Joint Peacekeeping Force in order to help reducing tensions.

At the same time, we cannot but express our serious concern regarding the plans to hold a so-called “referendum” and “presidential elections” scheduled for 12 November 2006 in South Ossetia, Georgia. This is a destructive act directed against the full-scale resolution of the conflict, which will substantially hamper the negotiations process.

Like previous speakers, we reiterate our grave concern about the recent escalation of tension in Georgian-Russian relations. Recalling in this connection the GUAM statement made at the meeting of the CIS Foreign Ministers in Minsk on 16 October, we specifically welcome the decision of Georgia to hand over the detained Russian servicemen to the Russian Federation, as a step aimed at diffusing the tense situation in their bilateral relations. Any inadequate measures, taken by one of the states against another, are not consistent with the principles laid down in the basic documents of the CIS. The GUAM member states call to refrain from any unilateral actions aimed at suspension of the economic, humanitarian or other relations with Georgia. We are convinced that all existing problems, including those related to the conflict settlement, must be resolved at the negotiation table, consistent with the generally recognized norms and principles of international law, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders, laid down in the United Nations Charter, as well as basic documents of the OSCE and CIS. We welcome the commitment of the Russian Federation to withdraw, in the course of 2008, the Russian military bases and military facilities of the Group of Russian Forces from Georgia. The GUAM member states call on other participating states to support the efforts aimed at diffusing the crisis in relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we sincerely wish Prime Minister Nogaideli every success in conducting his responsible duties for the benefit of the Georgian people.

Thank you.