



PC.DEL/335/05
28 April 2005

ENGLISH only

**Statement
at the 553rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
28 April 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the GUUAM Group Member States – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – I would like to inform the Permanent Council that on April 22 the GUUAM Summit was held in Chisinau, Moldova, with participation of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Presidents of Lithuania and Romania, the representatives of the USA and diplomatic missions accredited in Moldova attended the Summit as guests.

The Heads of the GUUAM Member States adopted the Communiqué of the Summit and the Chisinau Declaration *In the Name of Democracy, Stability and Development*. In addition, the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine have adopted a Joint Statement *on Building Democracy from the Baltic to the Black Sea*. The GUUAM-US Joint Statement has also been adopted at the Summit. As we have already distributed all these documents here in the OSCE, I would like to brief you on the major outcomes of the GUUAM Summit.

Mr. Chairman,

At the Chisinau Summit the Heads of the GUUAM Member States thoroughly examined the progress achieved by our Group so far and discussed the ways to further deepen the integration within the GUUAM and development of its relations with the foreign and international partners. The Parties stressed the need to continue the process of institutionalization of the GUUAM and its transformation into a regional organization with a properly operating Secretariat.

The participants of the Summit noted that geopolitical and geoeconomic realities of our time dictate a need of joint efforts by the democratic states towards strengthening peace and security, creating the spirit of confidence and new culture of international cooperation, provision of rule of law in internal as well as in international affairs.

Taking note of the increasing role of regional cooperation in the pan-European processes the participants of the Summit expressed confidence that development of democratic processes, particularly civil society institutions in the GUUAM countries, will contribute to strengthening of peace, security, stability and sustainable development.

In their discussions the Presidents of the GUUAM Member States gave a particular focus to the issues of strengthening regional security and stability, first of all through settlement of the unresolved conflicts still existing in the territory of some of the GUUAM countries. The need to re-integrate the uncontrolled territories into the States, a part of which they constitute, was emphasized, and the necessity to continue cooperation on combating terrorism, separatism, extremism, organized crime and other threats and challenges to security was stressed.

The Parties noted that economic cooperation between the GUUAM States is the most important component of strengthening regional security, peace and stability, which facilitates the development of democracy, rule of law, human rights and freedoms, humanistic values and cultural diversity. In this connection a number of important agreements, initiatives and projects implemented in the GUUAM framework such as the Agreement on Establishing Free Trade Area, GUUAM Economic Forum, Business Council, Trade and Transportation Facilitation Project were specifically mentioned.

With regard to the external relations of the GUUAM the Heads of States noticed the observer status acquired by the GUUAM in the UN General Assembly, as well as activization of cooperation with the OSCE and the South-East Europe Cooperation Initiative. The Presidents emphasized the importance of deepening the full-scale integrative links with the European Union and agreed to develop the mutually beneficial cooperation with the EU, particularly in the fields of transportation, energy, fight against organized crime, drug trafficking and illegal migration.

The Heads of the GUUAM Member States noted the high level of cooperation with the United States, particularly in implementation of the GUUAM-US Framework Program on Trade and Transportation Facilitation, provision of the border and customs control, fight against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking. The GUUAM-US Joint Statement adopted in Chisinau confirms the intention to further strengthen cooperation on all these issues.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chisinau Summit became an important milestone in the process of GUUAM's development and its integration into the modern system of international relations. We believe that the GUUAM has an important role to play in providing security, stability and peace in the OSCE area.