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**Statement
at the 529th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
21 October 2004**

Mr. Chairman,

Speaking on behalf of the Delegations of the GUUAM countries – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine – I would like to join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate distinguished Ambassador Javier Ruperez to the Permanent Council meeting and thank him both for his written report and oral presentation.

The GUUAM Member States attach great importance to the fight against international terrorism. In this connection we would like to commend the activities undertaken within the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee and take a good note of the process of its re-vitalization, which led, *inter alia*, to the establishment of the Executive Directorate under the able supervision of Ambassador Ruperez.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee is providing a valuable contribution into the ongoing international efforts on combating terrorism, particularly through review, reporting and technical assistance aimed at bridging the gaps and improving existing capabilities of the UN Member States. The GUUAM Group welcomes and fully supports these activities by the Committee, which enable the efficient and comprehensive implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1373. In this regard we take a positive note of active cooperation and coordination of efforts between the Committee and the OSCE through the Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community will not succeed in its noble endeavours to defeat terrorism until and unless we join all our efforts and pool all available resources to this end. We have to make sure that terrorists have no safe heavens to hide in, no weapons to use and no money to pay for it. It is our firm conviction that the

fight against terrorism cannot be successful if this phenomenon is being treated on its own, while disregarding such terrorism-breeding threats as organized crime, armed separatism, violent extremism, trafficking in drugs, weapons and human beings. The GUUAM States fully support the view that it is equally important to effectively target ways and means of accumulating significant financial assets by terrorist groups, which will be further used in terrorist purposes.

In this light, the existence of uncontrolled territories, emerged as a direct consequence of various conflicts in the OSCE area and elsewhere in the world, is of a special concern. These territories, operating out of control by respective central governments, serve as safe heavens and provide favorable conditions for illegal economic activities and various forms of trafficking. That is why we believe that the international community must undertake resolved and determined steps to find solution to these so-called “*frozen conflicts*” and restore territorial integrity of the sovereign states and effective control of central governments over these territories.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of fight against terrorism is placed on top of the GUUAM agenda. The relevant Working Group, consisting of experts from appropriate Government agencies of our countries, holds its meetings on a regular basis. Matters of improving the coordination and interaction on the anti-terrorism track within the GUUAM Group are always reflected in the documents adopted by the Heads of State at the Summit meetings, and by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Our States actively participate in the international anti-terrorist coalition, since we believe that terrorism is a present and clear danger for the fundamental principles of civilized world, such as rule of law, human rights and democracy. These values represent the cornerstone of the OSCE. Therefore, our Organization should play a more active role in fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, please allow me to once again thank the distinguished Ambassador Ruperez, and wish him and his able team all the best in their professional activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.