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EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement

by GUAM Member States

in response to the report of the UNSG's Special Envoy for the Future Status Process
for Kosovo, H.E. Martti Ahtisaari

*(as delivered by Ambassador Victor DOLIDZE
at the 653rd meeting of the Permanent Council)
Vienna, 20 February, 2007*

Mr.Chairman,

Speaking on behalf of GUAM Member States, I would like to welcome the UN Special Envoy for the future status process for Kosovo Mr. Marti Ahtisaari to the Permanent Council. We acknowledge President Ahtisaari's strenuous efforts throughout these past months. We also take note of the set of recommendations, which were distributed today to all OSCE delegations. GUAM's position on the issue of Kosovo, to which we continue to adhere, has been expressed in this Council on several occasions.

As today's discussion referred to the precedent character of the future decision on Kosovo status, I feel compelled to reiterate our position in that respect.

As the political process of Kosovo status determination is gradually moving forward the international community has to ensure stability during the whole period of negotiations and the implementation of the future decision. This stability refers not exclusively to the Western Balkans region but to adjacent regions as well. Therefore, we strongly believe that preserving stability and preventing the danger of unfreezing the latent conflicts in Europe is our major challenge and priority.

In this context, it is particularly important to ensure that the eventual decision of the UN Security Council on the final status of Kosovo would not impose the solution but be taken only upon the clearly expressed consent of both parties concerned. The outcome must strengthen the long-term regional political stability and ensure rights for all individuals and communities in Kosovo.

We wish to re-emphasize that the process of Kosovo settlement should be carried out in full compliance with the UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act, and regardless of its outcome, it must not establish any precedent whatsoever.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.