

**Statement by Mr.Oleg Shamshur,  
Head of the Delegation of Ukraine,  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine  
(OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism, Berlin, 28-29.04.2004)**

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,

It is a great honor for me to speak today on behalf of the GUUAM Group – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

First and foremost let me express our gratitude to the Bulgarian Chairmanship for having made every endeavor to ensure more active OSCE response to the dangerous and shameful phenomena of anti-Semitism. We are also thankful to Germany for hosting this Conference.

Since the restoration of our states' independence significant changes in political, economic and humanitarian spheres have taken place in the GUUAM countries.

In the process of political and economic transformations our Governments considered establishing conditions for ensuring equality of all citizens and their active participation in political, economic and social life irrespective of racial, ethnic or religious origin to be one of their mayor priorities.

Being multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-confessional countries the GUUAM participating States are fully committed to the assertion of the *unity in diversity* principle.

Support for the national languages and cultures of all national minorities living in our countries are on of the main directions of the state national policies. Provisions guaranteeing the rights of all national and religious minorities to use freely their native languages and culture, safeguarding freedom of religion and other human rights and fundamental freedoms are enshrined in our Constitutions and relevant legislative acts.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the topic of the Conference, we deem it necessary to emphasize its importance and urgency, taking into account that the manifestations of anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance are frequently observed in the OSCE area, moreover they are on the rise in a number of countries.

In today's world facing qualitatively new challenges, widespread acts of intolerance and related violence together with extremism, aggressive separatism and terrorism pose serious threats to the global security, stability and peace.

They should be resolutely confronted. In this connection the inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue is of special significance as an indispensable instrument of creating atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance among people of different beliefs and confessions, thus contributing to the elimination of enmity, distrust and misunderstanding. Active development and promotion of this dialogue must be a prominent item of the OSCE agenda as unique pan-European multidimensional institution.

This conference provides us with opportunity to re-emphasize our commitments to the fight against anti-Semitism, it should send a timely and strong signal of "zero tolerance" towards anti-Semitism, as well as racism, xenophobia and discrimination. Within the OSCE we must manifest a common resolve to elaborate and implement concrete, practical, consistent and forward-looking measures aimed at eradication of these ignominious phenomena.

We believe that the use of legislation, supported by institutional mechanisms is crucial to combat anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of discrimination. The participating states of the GUUAM have therefore been developing over the last few years a comprehensive and cohesive approach to tackling all forms of intolerance.

The GUUAM remains committed to cooperating with the OSCE on this and related issues. To make our fight really effective, the need to avoid duplication, promote complementarity of different types of activities and make the optimum use of available resources is self-apparent. We expect from this conference strengthening the degree and level of cooperation and putting forward ideas on how to improve it.

The conference should make suggestions on how the various relevant mechanisms of the OSCE can cooperate more effectively. The experience and expertise of ODIHR, HCNM and the Representative on Freedom of the Media on this issue should be harnessed more effectively leading to a much needed synergy. The way forward lies not necessarily in creation of the new structures, but in defining the means to make the current structures interact more effectively basing on the better defined, targeted approaches to cooperation in combating anti-Semitism that should take full account of the most recent developments.

We have to address anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, discrimination within the framework of a common unified approach, using the experience and initiatives on the various relevant issues to support the action across the board. Such an approach - rather than setting up

numerous plans and strategies to address the different- undoubtedly important - issues separately, will ensure the best use of available resources, augment solidarity of the various groups engaged in the fight against racism and anti-Semitism.

Mr. Chairman,

We must never forget the Holocaust. The tragic lessons of the past, as well as the painful facts of today call for the vigilance, consciousness and cooperation of all democratic forces. Our joint efforts will be the best guarantee of continuous progress towards the world free of all forms of hatred, including those based on ethnicity, race or religion.

Thank you.