



**Delegation of Ukraine  
to the OSCE**

**Statement by the GUAM Member States  
in response to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office H.E.Mr.Alexander Stubb**

As for delivery by Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'chenko  
to the Permanent Council, 10 April 2008

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the GUAM Member States – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The GUAM Member States warmly welcome the newly appointed Chairman-in-Office to the Permanent Council and thank him for his address, which reaffirms the priorities of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship in all three dimensions of the OSCE. These priority areas are fully in line with the common objectives of the GUAM in the OSCE and we stand ready to support the Chairmanship in their implementation.

The GUAM Member States appreciate the Finnish Chairmanship's efforts to ensure continuity and to strengthen coherence and coordination in the work of the Organization, which have been quite successful in the past few months.

The GUAM Member States attach great significance to further improving the role of the OSCE as a comprehensive security organization, a forum for political dialogue and an important mechanism for promoting cooperation in political-military, economic and environmental and human dimensions. The GUAM is committed to making its own contribution to these efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE represents a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in the area of its responsibility. We therefore attach paramount importance to enhancing the OSCE potential in the settlement of the unresolved conflicts, which persist in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. GUAM Member States welcome the emphasis of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship on the progress towards resolving those conflicts and highly appreciate the activities of its Special Envoy Ambassador Talvitie in promoting settlement processes.

The GUAM Member States consider that solutions to these protracted conflicts can be found within the framework of constructive and result-oriented negotiations on all issues related to the settlement. While calling for the revival of the negotiations in those cases where this process is stagnating, we believe that the peace initiatives of GUAM Member States could contribute to these efforts. The common GUAM approach to the settlement of these conflicts remains unchanged: respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova in compliance with the relevant norms and principles of international law, UN resolutions and OSCE decisions should remain at the heart of all conflict resolution efforts. We also reiterate the inalienable right of the refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their places of residence in a safe and dignified manner.

Mr. Minister,

The GUAM Member States look forward to working closely and constructively with you and your excellent team in Vienna throughout your tenure and wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavours.