



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

**GUAM Statement**

**Delievered by the Deputy Head of Mission Paata Gaprindashvili  
at the 736<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
23 October 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to bring to the attention of the Permanent Council that the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM deployed a group of observers to the Presidential Election of the Republic of Azerbaijan, conducted on 15 October 2008. The Group, headed by Mr. V. Chechelashvili, Secretary General of GUAM, consisted of members of the Parliament of Georgia, representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the Embassy of Ukraine in Baku.

The Group of GUAM observers, based on results of observation, made the following Statement:

”The Presidential election in the Republic of Azerbaijan was organized and conducted in line with international, including the OSCE and Council of Europe commitments and standards for democratic elections, as well as the national legislation and the rules and procedures elaborated by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In respect of the overall electoral process, organization of the election and the activity of the commissions of the polling stations, the Group of GUAM Observers has no substantial remarks. The elections took place in a genuinely competitive environment and in general could be assessed positively – as free and fair”.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.