



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

PC.DEL/845/05
6 September 2005

ENGLISH only

GUAM Statement
at 568th (Special) Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

As for delivery by the Ambassador V.Yel'chenko

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me on behalf of the GUAM Member States – Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova – to warmly welcome the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan His Excellency Dr. Elmar Mammadyarov to this meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for his comprehensive informative address. Our countries share the same values and principles, and have the same aspirations. We are also united in our desire to make our Organization more efficient so it could be a better instrument in fighting the risks and threats, and addressing the problems and concerns all of its participating States are faced with.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the progress achieved by the Republic of Azerbaijan in building democratic institutions, strengthening the rule of law and good governance, including the reforms of legislation, judiciary and law-enforcement, and creation of the local self-government bodies. We particularly note that this significant progress was achieved under the hard circumstances of the unresolved conflict and transition period. Our countries fully support the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan, described by the distinguished Minister and taken with a view of ensuring that the upcoming Parliamentary elections are held in democratic manner, in accordance with relevant norms of the legislation of Azerbaijan and international standards. We take good note of cooperation that the Republic of Azerbaijan is carrying out in this field with the relevant international organizations, the OSCE in particular. We believe that these elections will become another important step taken by Azerbaijan in the overall process of democratic reforms.

We have listened carefully to the words of the distinguished Minister dedicated to the economic development and take good note of the most impressive results demonstrated by Azerbaijan in this field. Our countries support the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan aimed at facilitating the sustainable development, using the vast natural resources and advantageous geographic position of this country, located at the international trade and transit crossroads. The energy transit projects initiated by Azerbaijan became an important factor promoting the regional development. We also welcome the steps taken by the Government to facilitate the dynamic development of the non-oil sectors of economy, such as tourism, information technologies and communications.

Mr. Chairman,

The unresolved conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to seriously hinder the process of development of Azerbaijan and the whole region of the South Caucasus in general. It is our firm and principled position that this conflict must be resolved on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, first of all those pertaining to the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of international borders, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the OSCE decisions. Availing ourselves of this opportunity we reiterate our call addressed to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Co-Chairmen and the OSCE Minsk Group in general to redouble their efforts in order to achieve the soonest resolution of this conflict within the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this regard we would also like to welcome the recent initiatives put forward by the Republic of Azerbaijan, particularly on the use of the Lachin road by both sides in both directions, which reaffirms the constructive approach of Azerbaijan to the conflict resolution.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, please allow me to once again thank distinguished Minister Mammadyarov for his address, and wish him every success in his endeavors.