

STATEMENT
of H.E. Mr. Andrei STRATAN, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign
Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova,
on behalf of GUAM at the 13th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting
(Ljubljana, 5 December 2005)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished audience,

It is great pleasure for me to address this forum on behalf of GUAM member states – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. First of all, I wish to thank our host - Slovenia, for good organization of our annual meeting. I express also our appreciation to the Slovenian Chairmanship and personally to the Chairman-in-office, His Excellency Dimitrij Rupel, for the undertaken efforts in exercising this responsible position.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The existence of this forum for over three decades demonstrates that we have a common goal – ensuring security, cooperation and democratization processes in the OSCE area. We welcome the ODIHR's contribution to the democratization processes that have unfolded in the recent years, especially due to the fact that OSCE conducts election observation in an impartial and transparent manner. The GUAM member states express their confidence in the professionalism and expertise of ODIHR and support its operational autonomy. In this respect, we reiterate our full support to Georgia's hosting of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

The GUAM member states continued an active cooperation with the OSCE, which was stimulated by recent developments within GUAM. At the Chisinau Summit that took place on 22 April, the Heads of GUAM states agreed upon further institutionalization of GUAM, by transforming it into a regional organization. GUAM has set up a range of priorities, such as cooperation in the field of security, economy, energy security and infrastructure. The GUAM member states are further developing partnership links with interested states and organizations.

The Helsinki Final Act, signed 30 years ago, has established a set of principles fully shared by the GUAM states. The OSCE should be the guarantor and the instrument of respecting these fundamental principles. Thus, GUAM pleads for ensuring the OSCE's capability to implement its own decisions. We believe that the OSCE capacity in the area of conflict settlement should be strengthened first of all. The GUAM member states call for strengthening the operational capabilities of the OSCE in such fields as early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

In this connection, I would like to underline the position of GUAM Regarding the Certain Elements of the Process of Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, which proposes the establishment of the special mechanism within the OSCE that will deal with unresolved conflicts.

Mr. Chairman,

The GUAM member states are deeply concerned with the fact that the separatist regimes on the territories of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova continue to operate on the uncontrolled regions emerged as a result of the conflicts. The unresolved conflicts threaten territorial integrity of these states, delay their economic development, provoke regional tension and serve as a fertile soil for illegal activities such as smuggling, organized crime, trafficking in arms, drugs and human beings. GUAM condemns the phenomenon of aggressive separatism. The demilitarization and democratization of the separatist regions are key-conditions for the settlement of these conflicts.

The GUAM member states call upon the OSCE partners to intensify their efforts towards conflicts resolution on the basis of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of borders and in accordance with relevant resolutions of United Nations Security Council and OSCE decisions.

I would like to underline that our countries attach great importance to the cooperation with European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. The intensification of the political dialogue and collaboration of the GUAM states with the European Union and NATO accelerates the connection of our countries to the Euro-Atlantic system of common values, principles and standards.

GUAM member states note the certain progress achieved in the implementation of the Istanbul Commitments on Georgia and look forward to the full implementation of the remaining ones. At the same time, the GUAM countries express their deep concern with lack of progress regarding the implementation of the Istanbul Commitments on Moldova and urge its prompt resumption and completion.