



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
1049<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015**

*In response to the Secretary-General of the Organization for Democracy and Economic  
Development-GUAM*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joins previous speakers in warmly welcoming Ambassador Valery Chechelashvili, Secretary-General of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development -GUAM back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his presentation on activities and priorities of the Organization.

GUAM is a platform of cooperation among its member-States, as well as with interested partner States and international organizations to enhance regional peace and security through democratic development and economic cooperation. Since its establishment, pragmatic sectoral cooperation within the Organization has been instrumental for transforming the common will of member States into result-oriented projects designed to contribute to security, stability and economic well-being in its region and beyond. In this context, the establishment of Free Trade Zone of GUAM, development of GUAM Transport Corridor, effective cooperation among law-enforcement bodies of the GUAM member-States in combatting transnational threats, joint projects in the fields of energy and tourism are worthwhile to be mentioned.

Against this background, it is of deep regret that the GUAM member-States continue to face serious threats to their sovereignty and territorial integrity posed by unresolved conflicts in their territories. The existence of the conflicts with their

harsh military, political, economic and humanitarian consequences threaten security and stability of the States concerned and hinders their efforts to fully materialize untapped potential of regional cooperation in the GUAM area and beyond. The conflicts accompanied by illegal foreign military presence in the territories of GUAM States, continuous military build-up and accumulation of arms and military equipment in their occupied territories threaten the security and stability of the entire OSCE region. These are clear violations of the Helsinki Principles and therefore, necessitate unified and principled approach by the international community, especially by the OSCE participating States to resolve these conflicts through re-establishing respect for the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

In this context, we reiterate the common position of the Heads of State of GUAM that settlement of conflicts on the territories of the GUAM States shall be carried out exclusively on the basis of respect to sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of these states.

We further underline the importance of supporting the efforts of the GUAM States to settle these conflicts by means of de-militarization of conflict zones, de-occupation of internationally recognized territories of the States, re-integration of uncontrolled territories into the states that they are part of and return of forcibly displaced population to the areas of permanent residency. We call on the OSCE participating States to support the GUAM member-States' joint initiatives within the United Nations General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "The protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development".

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE as the only regional organization mandated for the settlement of these conflicts has special responsibility for finding earliest solution to the conflicts and eliminating their consequences. Unless sustainable solution to these conflicts is achieved, the OSCE can hardly claim to have any meaningful role in the pan-European security architecture.

In this regard, it is imperative for the OSCE to effectively oversee the settlement processes on the basis of mandates of respective negotiation formats and decisions

and documents adopted with regard to specific conflicts and give proper guidance for the mediation efforts.

It is incomprehensible that despite our continuous calls, ongoing sufferings of millions of refugees and internally displaced persons in GUAM member-States are kept hostage to narrow-minded political agendas of certain OSCE participating States and thus, not addressed within the OSCE. We consider this situation as an overt discrimination against our common commitments in the third dimension, which can deepens mistrust in the Organization. In this context, our Delegation bears its hope that the Chairmanship event to be held in July this year will be exclusively dedicated to the issue of refugees and IPDs.

In conclusion, we once again thank to Mr. Secretary-General for his presentation and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.