

*Check against delivery*

## **STATEMENT**

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Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations  
on behalf of the Member States of the Organization for  
Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM  
at the general debate of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly  
Second Committee**

*New York, 3 October 2006*

**Madam Chair,**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM, namely Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

We congratulate you on your well-deserved election to the Chairperson of the Second Committee. Our congratulations also go to the distinguished members of the Bureau.

I am pleased to inform the Committee that during the last Summit of GUAM, a full fledged organization "The Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM", was established. Its priorities include cooperation in the field of sustainable development, economic advancement, energy security and social progress. Furthermore, last week our Ministers for Foreign Affairs met here in New York to reaffirm their commitment to the GUAM agenda, including those of promotion of economic and social development.

The GUAM States attach a great importance to the work of the Committee and the quality of its work. We believe that the above cannot be achieved unless the Committee's agenda reflects our common priorities and its resolutions provide effective follow up towards achievement of MDGs.

Macroeconomic policy questions, sustainable development, as well as integration of the economies in transition into the world economy, continue to be among priorities for the GUAM States.

We also look forward to streamlining the agenda of the Committee and rationalizing its working methods. The Bureau can count on our full support in their efforts to identify ways to achieve this objective.

Our four states are making headway in developing democratic institutions, free market and integrating into the global economy.

Last year our States enjoyed sustained macroeconomic performance. Along with their macroeconomic stabilization, they continued to conduct bold reforms that have led to GDP growth and increased inflows of foreign direct investment. Sustained efforts are being made to create favourable monetary and financial conditions that would maintain the progress achieved.

Currently, the GUAM States cooperate towards creation of the Free Trade Area based on equality and mutual benefits for its participating States. Our economies are poised for the full participation in the global economy but there is still much work to do to make it happen.

At the beginning of this session of the General Assembly, two important High-level gatherings took place, namely on least developed countries and the Dialogue on International Migration. The GUAM States welcome the constructive debates and, in particular, underscore established partnerships, policy coherence and spirit of multilateralism, which distinct these two events. Efficient follow up to both of them will significantly contribute to the world development agenda.

The GUAM States believe that sustainable development issues are an indispensable part of the work of the UN system. Indeed, environmental degradation and incremental occurrence of natural disasters across the regions should constitute an imperative for the UN system organizations and the Governments to reinforce collective efforts towards even and effective achievement of the environmental goals and targets.

The GUAM States look forward to addressing these issues and sharing their experience later in the Committee. We also look forward to recommendations of the High-level Panel on UN system-wide coherence and its contribution to enhancing coordination of relevant UN activities.

The agenda item "Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy" remains priority issue for the GUAM States and we look forward to meaningful exchange of views and experiences on how to support the efforts of the countries and to enhance their effective integration.

We believe that the report of the Secretary-General as well as the input of regional commissions will help to analyze trends and development perspectives of the countries. Despite the progress achieved, it is obvious that international community should further support the countries with economies in transition in their efforts to improve and sustain economic performance and to complete necessary market-oriented reforms. We believe that the forthcoming resolution of the Committee will be instrumental to achieving this goal and would like to invite Member States to join the list of co-sponsors of that resolution.

It is necessary to build upon outcomes of the Monterrey Consensus and Johannesburg Summit to ensure full and effective achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Priority should be further given to bringing stability to international financial and trading systems. There is a need to promote increased interaction between stronger ECOSOC, Bretton-Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization.

Recognizing the vital role of trade in development, the GUAM States also support early resumption of trade talks and realization of the objectives of the Doha Development Round. In our view, strengthening the role of the WTO and transforming it into a truly universal Organization would contribute to improving international trading system. In this particular regard, we would like to emphasize the importance of facilitation of accession process for candidate countries to WTO.

In conclusion, we sincerely hope that this session with its ambitious agenda will be productive, efficient and will meet our bold expectations.

**Thank you, Madam Chair.**