



საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა ევროსა და
გენევი ანკარულ ხმა სავსეთაშორის ორგანიზაციებში
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN VIENNA

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. David Aptsiauri,
First Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia
on Behalf of the GUUAM Group**

Annual Security Review Conference

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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Speaking on behalf of the GUUAM states, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine let me warmly greet you and wish all of us successful discussions with positive outcome. No doubt, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe with its common and comprehensive approach to security, and three-dimensional perception of tasks is the very organization that is capable and willing to shoulder the complex issues related to the security in Euro-Atlantic area.

The ever-changing political circumstances make this mission even more intricate. Today, in the 21st century, our societies face such major threats as terrorism, transnational organized crime, including trafficking in human beings. These problems may be fought only through joint efforts, in close cooperation with other regional and international organizations. The OSCE should create a new concept of security, elaborate a new strategy for peacekeeping operations highlighting the conflict preventing measures. But this candid war against evil should not infringe the fundamental human rights of our citizens, should not be targeted against a person, ethnic group, nation or race.

The security architecture of the 21st century has to build up on democratic principles only, such as rule of law, good governance and full and real participation of citizens in political life, these being the essential provisions

for safeguarding security and stability. Reflecting new realities, the new concept should enhance the OSCE's involvement in economic issues ensuring the prevention of global and regional economic risk factors for predictable development. It should establish sustainable international guarantees that none of the state members is mistreated, nobody's sovereignty is arrogantly overridden.

Over the past decade we have witnessed the lack of required resolve on the part of the OSCE in the settlement of the so-called "frozen" conflicts in the territories of some GUUAM countries. We are deeply convinced that the Organization and its participating states must not reconcile with the situation that has emerged in and around the Abkhaz and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the Transdnestrian region of Moldova. We are strongly confident that the peace efforts of the OSCE in each case I stated above, should be duly reflected in relevant ministerial documents of the Organization in accordance with the long established tradition of our work.

A future OSCE strategy to address threats to security and stability in the 21st century must take into due account the whole range of security related challenges, including armed aggression, acquisition of territories by force, ethnic intolerance and ethnic cleansing, separatism and extremism in all their manifestations and interrelationship. It is impossible to separate these "old" security challenges from "newly emerged" ones since terrorism, arms smuggling, organized crime, illicit drug and human trafficking, as well as other illegal activities flourish in the first place in the areas, which are not under control of legitimate authorities.

Combating terrorism or other threats to security will not be comprehensive if the issues of the so called "frozen conflicts" and uncontrolled territories remain unsolved. Precisely, the unsettled conflicts are the fertile ground for terrorism, organized crime, trafficking, illegal sale of arms and drugs. In order to combat these evils there is an urgent need to unite efforts, demonstrate the political will, take right decisions and start their implementation. Time has come for the OSCE to be involved more actively in bringing their solution.

Mr. Chairman,

Now, as I continue in my national capacity, let me draw your attention to the issues that hinder security and stability in my country and thus in the whole OSCE area.

The adapted CFE Treaty and the Final Act of the OSCE Istanbul Summit are the essential contribution in promoting confidence, stability and security in the undivided Europe. In that context, we would like to stress the importance of the development of a common and comprehensive security model for the 21st century Europe.

All countries represented here have agreed that, in order to ensure CFE's continued viability and effectiveness in the Europe of the continued political and strategic changes, we should take all possible measures to reach our common goal – the entrance into force of the Adapted CFE Treaty. In this regard, the achievement of certain progress in the process of implementation of the key commitments according to the Final Act is crucial for the adapted CFE Treaty, which is a cornerstone of European security.

We would like to stress once again, that Annex 14 of the Final Act (Joint statement of Russia and Georgia, 17 November 1999) is an integral part of the adapted CFE Treaty and its full implementation is one of the obligatory preconditions for entry into force of the adapted Treaty. This position is shared by the majority of the OSCE community.

We also would like to underline that the Final Act was not a decision and/or concern of one single country. It was the sum of those "voluntary" Final Act commitments, which made possible the Adapted Treaty to be signed in Istanbul. That is why the obligations according to the Final Act are of international nature.

In addition, this dangerous trend of unfulfilled pledges encourages separatists to ignore, evade and violate their commitments and block negotiation processes. Regretfully we have to state that no substantial progress has been noted in Abkhazia, Georgia. Encouraged by the outside forces the de-facto Abkhaz authorities refuse to accept the UN document on the distribution of competencies between Tbilisi and Sokhumi. In the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia the process of negotiations on the status of the conflict zone is still delayed. The frozen conflicts are making well ground for regional instability as well as stagnation of economical and political development. In this regard, we attach the great importance to the

involvement of international organizations in the process of solution of the mentioned conflicts.

We call on the OSCE to get more actively involved in the settlement of these conflicts. We have outstanding examples of successful engagement of the organization, in particular, in the Border Monitoring Operation on the Georgian-Russian State Border, economic rehabilitation and language training projects of the High Commissioner of National Minorities in Samtskhe-Javakheti, etc. These positive results must encourage our further work towards comprehensive security in the whole OSCE area, that requires constant maintenance and investment from of us all.

Thank you.