

COMMUNIQUE of the GUUAM Summit

April 22, 2005, the city of Chisinau (Moldova) hosted another Summit of GUUAM Heads of States with the participation of the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Presidents of Lithuania and Romania, and representatives of the USA and diplomatic missions also attended the Summit as guests.

In the course of the Summit, the participants discussed the status and prospects of multilateral cooperation under GUUAM, the issues of its further strengthening aiming to facilitate economic development, democracy and stability in the region.

Having discussed the international situation, risks and threats to the security of the GUUAM states, the Heads of States expressed a joint position by adopting the Chisinau Declaration.

The Parties satisfyingly indicated the onward process of the GUUAM institutionalisation. They favoured the Kyiv approval, on September 23, 2004, of the GUUAM Parliamentary Assembly qualified to render legislative support to the Alliance and facilitate the strengthening of democratic standards. The participants asserted that the second session of the Assembly planned next May in the city of Yalta would give a new impetus to interparliamentary cooperation and dialogue between the peoples of the Alliance countries.

It was emphasised that the growing international reputation of the Alliance had facilitated endowing GUUAM with the status of an observer in the UN General Assembly, the activation of cooperation with OSCE and the Southern-Eastern Europe Cooperation Initiative (SECI), as well participation in developing due projects by representatives of Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.

The participants of the meeting mentioned that the geopolitical and geoeconomic realities of the early XXI century dictated a need for concerted efforts of democratic states to strengthen peace and security, form a spirit of trust and new culture of international cooperation, the provision of rule of law, both in internal and international affairs.

Marking the growing role of regional cooperation in pan-European processes, the Summit participants asserted that the development of democratic processes, in particular civil society institutes in the GUUAM countries, would help strengthen peace, security, stability and sustainable development.

To attain these goals, the Parties agreed to activate interaction in conflict settlement based on norms and principles of international law and the reintegration of uncontrolled territories in the states part of which they are, in fighting terrorism, separatism, extremism and other perils and threats to international security.

The Heads of States stressed a need for close cooperation in preventing illegal actions originated by separatist regimes, in particular, via concerted concrete measures, and on these purposes agreed to adjust regular sharing of opinions and information which would involve international institutions.

The Summit participants stressed the importance of democratic development of the GUUAM states aiming to create a space of stability, security and prosperity, as well as deepening full-scale integrative ties with the European Union.

The participants reached a common conclusion regarding the expediency of coordinating external policy efforts of the member states in the process of European integration.

The Summit participants confirmed the need for full implementation of the Declaration provisions on concerted efforts to provide for stability and security in the region, and the Agreement on cooperation among the Governments of the GUUAM member states in the area of fighting terrorism, organised crime and other dangerous crimes.

In this connection, they satisfyingly indicated the completion of preparation for and the beginning of implementation of the Project to set up a GUUAM Virtual Centre to fight terrorism, organised crime, distribution of narcotic drugs and other dangerous crimes, and an Interstate Information Analysis System (VC/IIAS). The Parties agreed to establish a VC/IIAS Steering Committee to provide for the proper implementation of the above Project.

The Parties mentioned that economic cooperation among GUUAM countries was the most important component of strengthening regional security, peace and stability, which facilitates the development of democracy, rule of law and human rights and freedoms, humanistic values and cultural diversity.

The participants stressed the importance of interaction for strengthening the economic, energy, transport and information-related components of the GUUAM states' security, and expressed their common interest in maximum efficient use of the benefits of their

countries' geographic position as a potentially powerful transit link between Europe and the Asian and Pacific regions.

The participants agreed to activate energy cooperation in the GUUAM framework aimed to implement joint energy programs and projects on the basis of their commercial cost-effectiveness, in particular, on the transporting of the Caspian region energy resources to the European energy market with the use of the territories of the Alliance member states.

The participants declared that the implementation of the Agreement on establishing a GUUAM free trade area was one of the primary objectives for the near future. In this connection, they decided to entrust the Governments of their countries to take necessary measures to implement this Agreement in the context of efforts to rapidly join the World Trade Organisation.

The participants expressed their satisfaction with the fact that the Memorandum on Mutual Understanding among the GUUAM states on facilitating trade and transportation signed July 4, 2003, in the city of Yalta, is being implemented in the broad-scale Project for trade and transport facilitation (TTF) which, in turn, is an important constituent in the practical implementation of the Agreement on a free trade area.

The participants mentioned that the first Economic Forum and the session of the GUUAM Business Council on November 17, 2004, in Kyiv, facilitated the activation of economic cooperation under the Alliance. They decided to entrust the government of their countries to hold annual economic forums.

The Parties encouraged the Business Council to actively participate in setting up a free trade area, and more fully implement the potential of business circuits, develop contacts of entrepreneurship structures, and adjust cooperation with the similar structure of international organisations.

Marking the role of branch cooperation under the Alliance, the participants entrusted the governments with taking necessary measures for full implementation of the objectives indicated in the GUUAM Program for 2005.

The Parties welcomed the signing, in the course of the Summit, of a number of new multilateral agreements aiming to facilitate the development of развитию branch cooperation under the Alliance.

In the context of further development of the Alliance, the Parties stressed its openness to new members sharing the goals and principles of the Alliance, and expressed their interest in cooperation with third countries, international organisations and initiatives.

The Parties confirmed the importance of GUUAM states' interaction with UN with the use of the Alliance' observer status in this Organisation, and mentioned the expedience of further cooperation in OSCE. They welcomed the adoption of the GUUAM action plans on cooperation under UN and OSCE for 2005.

The participants mentioned a high level of interaction with the USA, in particular, the implementation of the GUUAM-US framework program to facilitate trade and transportation, the provision of border and customs control, fighting terrorism, organised crime and distribution of illicit drugs. The joint GUUAM-US Declaration adopted at the Summit indicates the Parties' mutual aspiration for improving cooperation in issues of fighting terrorism and transnational crime, the operation of border and customs control, including TTF and VC/IAS projects.

The participants agreed to adjust mutually beneficial cooperation with the EU, in particular, in the area of transport, energy, fighting organised crime, distribution of illicit drugs and illegal migration.

To attain the goals of the Yalta GUUAM Charter and the Chisinau Declaration "In The Name of Democracy, Stability and Development", and taking into account the growing objectives for the states of the region, the Parties unanimously stated a need to continue the process of institutionalisation of the Alliance and its approval as an international regional organisation with a properly operating regular Secretariat. In this connection, they declared a need to create under GUUAM a regional organization, and entrusted the Council of Foreign Ministers to set up a special workgroup to develop its statute documents.

In accordance with the Summit decision, the chairing of the Alliance is taken over by Moldova.