

PROGRAMME
OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN THE
ORGANIZATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - GUAM
FOR 2014

INTRODUCTION

The Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM has successfully established its status as an organisation operating within the international system, both at the regional and international levels. Georgia's active chairmanship during 2013 brought a new impetus to the Organization and shall be commended. Moldovan chairmanship will consolidate the progress achieved and will further promote it.

The Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summit has defined the European identity of the GUAM space and highlighted new challenges, while, at the same time, opening new opportunities. The Chairmanship believes that, in the post-Vilnius era, cooperation between GUAM member-states towards European advancement is acquiring a new dimension.

The Chairmanship will promote the solidarity of GUAM by strengthening its collective authority and dialogue with the European Union.

The Chairmanship deems it possible and necessary to further intensify the sectoral cooperation within GUAM, which entails materialising the Organization's wide capacity and the basis of quadrilateral cooperation.

The Chairmanship welcomes the launch of four specialised Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly, and, in this connection, will further contribute to the strengthening of the parliamentary cooperation. Particular attention will be paid to the cooperation with European parliamentary institutions, primarily with the European Parliament.

In broader terms, the Chairmanship will promote dialogue within the Committee of National Coordinators and the Council of Foreign Ministers for close coordination of joint actions of GUAM member-states to further promote political cooperation and better realise the potential of the quadrilateral cooperation.

The Chairmanship relies on the support from member-states and the GUAM Secretariat, and intends to actively involve all of the Organization's institutional and organizational capacity in order to promote GUAM's image in the international relations system.

I. POLITICAL INTERACTION

The rapprochement of GUAM member-states on a wide range of issues regarding international and regional cooperation will form the basis of this Chairmanship. The Chairmanship is convinced that consistently consolidating GUAM's position makes an important contribution to implementing member-states' common agenda and promoting individual interests on the international arena.

The Chairmanship will promote solidarity among GUAM member-states, including through international organisations, will strive to consolidate positions with respect to international and regional cooperation, and intensify consultations with a view to ensuring more effective mutual support on the international arena.

In accordance with the member-states general approach to become closer to the European Union, a priority of the Chairmanship will be to further develop the GUAM Free Trade Area based on the principle of the free movement of goods and services.

The Chairmanship deems it necessary to further strengthen cooperation with international organisations, especially the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. It is necessary to further develop existing good practices between GUAM member-states on the basis of approved annual plans, and to guide the diplomatic missions towards holding consultations in order to agree on common approaches and to develop joint positions.

The issues related to protracted conflicts in the GUAM region will remain on the GUAM agenda. The Chairmanship will undertake the necessary measures in order to facilitate the process of peaceful settlement of the protracted conflicts on the basis of the principles of settlement set forth by the four Presidents in accordance with a Joint Declaration, signed on May 23, 2006 at the GUAM summit in Kyiv.

In order to achieve these goals, the Chairmanship deems it appropriate to continue the practice of political consultations in order to promote the draft resolution "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development", previously initiated by GUAM, during the 68th and 69th sessions of the UN General Assembly.

The UN General Assembly resolution on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM" is also important to be promoted and adopted during the 69th session of the UN General Assembly.

II. SECTORAL COOPERATION

The Chairmanship will facilitate the development of sectoral cooperation in accordance with GUAM's main objectives and the Council's decisions and recommendations, including those set out in the Statement of Heads of Member-States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM concerning the development of the GUAM Transport Corridor and the Decision of the Council of Heads of State "On intensifying GUAM Sectoral Cooperation", adopted at the GUAM Summit in Batumi on July 1, 2008, as well as the GUAM Sectoral Cooperation Strategy, adopted at the GUAM summit in Baku on June 19, 2007.

Priority will be given to developing sectoral cooperation in such fields as economy and trade, transport, tourism, fight against crime, revitalising the activities of the working groups in order to develop specific cooperation projects and programmes within the "GUAM" and "GUAM+" formats, and improving the coordination of GUAM sectoral cooperation at the national level.

The Chairmanship shall promote, in cooperation with GUAM National Coordinators, country coordinators for sectoral working groups and other GUAM working bodies, as well as with the

organisational and technical support of the Secretariat, the following sectoral cooperation priorities:

2.1. Economy and Trade

- Promoting the adoption of the Protocol on Approving the Procedure for the establishment and activities of the Working Body that coordinates the actions of the Parties to the Agreement on establishing the free trade zone between GUUAM member-states;
- Promoting the adoption of Regulations determining the origin of goods;
- Holding a meeting of the GUAM Business Council with representatives from investment agencies, businesses, banks, as well as with investors from third-party countries and the GUAM Secretariat;
- Involving representatives of the business community in formulating and implementing GUAM projects.

2.2. Promoting Trade and Transportation

- Continuing efforts to simplify and synchronise customs and border procedures;
- Analysing information regarding the problems related to the smooth functioning of a GUAM free trade zone and promoting the development of mechanisms to overcome them;
- Promoting the “Protocol between customs administrations of GUAM member-states on organising the exchange of preliminary information about goods and vehicles moved across the state borders of GUAM member-states”.

2.3. Transportation

- Facilitating the next meeting of the Working Group on Transport in order to develop new projects based on the Development Concept for the GUAM transport corridor;
- Promoting the development of new transport projects involving representatives of the business community;
- Cooperating in terms of organising conferences, seminars and other events in order to develop joint approaches and GUAM’s overall strategy in the transport sector.

2.4. Energy

- Intensifying consultations on a wide range of issues of energy cooperation and energy security within the framework of the Working Group on Energy;
- Promoting the development of projects aimed at enhancing the energy security of GUAM member-countries and the use of alternative energy sources;
- Publishing the proceedings from the seminar ‘Promoting a Green Economy in GUAM countries: Promoting Renewable Energy Sources’ in order to attract investments in alternative energy sources;
- Promoting cooperation in the energy sphere within the GUAM-Japan format (preparing the second workshop on ‘Promoting a Green Economy in GUAM countries: Promoting Renewable Energy Sources’ with support from the Hungarian Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)).

2.5. Information Technology

- Facilitating the next meeting of the Working Group on Information Technology in order to mobilise cooperation in this field;
- Facilitating the systematic exchange of information in order to improve legislation, statistical data, macroeconomic indicators and ongoing projects in this area;
- Promoting the development of the draft Strategy on cooperation regarding information technology;
- Providing assistance for the participation in exhibitions and conferences planned for 2014 in the field of information and communication technologies.

2.6. Science and Education

- Facilitating a meeting of the Working Group on Education and Science in order to enhance cooperation in this field;
- Contributing to the organization of television and radio programmes on the history and culture of GUAM member-states;
- Organising the release of a collection of folk tales from the GUAM region;
- Organizing an evening of musical culture from the GUAM region;
- Facilitating international festivals dedicated to national minorities in GUAM member-states, under the auspices of GUAM;
- Promoting children's and youth sports competitions in GUAM member-states.

2.7. Culture and Tourism

- Facilitating a meeting of the Working Group on Culture and Tourism in order to strengthen cooperation in this area;
- Contributing to the implementation of the Plan of the GUAM Working Group on Culture and Tourism for 2013-2014;
- Preparing a joint GUAM tourist product in the field of tourism in order to promote cooperation between GUAM and the Pacific Alliance, the USA, Canada and South Korea;
- Promoting mutual participation in travel fairs for GUAM member states.

2.8. Fighting Terrorism and Crime

- Implementing the Plan for organisational and practical measures of the Working Group on Combating Terrorism, Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking (WGCTOC) for 2014, approved at the 16th meeting of WGCTOC (held at the GUAM Secretariat on December 19-20, 2013);
- Optimising GUAM working bodies in the spheres of law enforcement and anti-terrorism, including the following: promoting the creation of a working body on combating cybercrime (cyber-threats), facilitating meetings between representatives of the competent authorities' working units on combating organised crime;
- Promoting the development and implementation of joint proposals, projects and programmes, including projects for the cryptographic protection of information, for expanding the infrastructure of the GUAM Virtual Center, for combating money

laundering, in the area of legal statistics and an UNODC project concerning the investigation of international routes for trafficking Afghan opiates;

- Providing assistance in creating a data bank for GUAM competent authorities regarding persons who are wanted, who have committed or are suspected of committing crimes, as well as persons being prosecuted for crimes linked to illicit drug trafficking;
- Promoting the development of the analytical component in terms of cooperation between the competent authorities of GUAM member-states, including with respect to crime analysis and risk analysis, and preparing joint experts' conclusions on the situation and trends in combatting drug and human trafficking;
- Fostering improved cooperation between GUAM and other international partners and organisations.

2.9. Emergency Prevention and Mitigation

- Implementing the Plan of the Working Group on Emergencies (WGEMRG) in 2014;
- Within the GUAM framework, contributing to the list of rescue units, facilities and equipment that can be offered to assist a requesting party in the event of relevant emergencies;
- Exploring the possibilities for cooperation with other international partners, in particular in emergency response at LNG-terminal facilities, improving the national warning system, and training rescue units and services to operate in crowded places;
- Promoting the development of regional cooperation between departments handling emergency situations on issues pertaining to the response to the threat of nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological terrorism.

2.10. Consular Cooperation

The Chairmanship will promote the implementation of the Convention of GUUAM member-states on providing mutual assistance on consular affairs of June 7, 2001, as part of the development of cooperation between consular services and also to provide mutual assistance to third countries to protect the rights and interests of nationals of GUAM member-states. In order to further improve the Convention and its implementation mechanisms, the Chairmanship intends to hold relevant consultations.

III. FURTHERING INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION, COOPERATION BETWEEN BUSINESS COMMUNITIES AND NGOS

3.1. GUAM Parliamentary Assembly

The Chairmanship, with the organisational and technical support to be provided by the Secretariat, intends to pursue the following:

- Promote further the cooperation in the parliamentary dimension and interaction between the parliaments of GUAM member-states, both within GUAM and with other international parliamentary organisations, to facilitate ratification procedures for GUAM documents, and to generate project ideas.
- Facilitate the development of cooperation between the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assemblies of other international organisations, in particular the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkish Speaking

Countries (TURKPA), the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, in particular the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, etc.;

- Develop the practice of participation in the parliamentary and presidential elections in the member-states of the GUAM observer groups;
- Promote, within the framework of the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly, meetings of specialised committees on such issues as regional security, political, legal, economic and trade issues, as well as culture and education;
- Provide assistance in organising a meeting of the Bureau's Parliamentary Assembly in 2014 and the next meeting of the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly in 2014.

3.2. GUAM Business Council, Coordinating Council of Banking Associations of GUAM Member States

- Provide assistance in holding an investment forum and meeting of the GUAM Business Council involving representatives of investment agencies, businesses, banks, as well as investors from third-party countries and the GUAM Secretariat.

3.3. Non-governmental organisations

The Chairmanship will render the assistance to the International Union of Citizen's Associations of "GUAM Youth Forum" and cooperate with the International Youth Association "Great Silk Way" in implementing joint initiatives and projects.

IV. COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Developing cooperation between GUAM and other states and international organisations is essential to strengthening GUAM's position and its significance. This approach will provide an opportunity to mobilise additional resources for the Organization and its member-states.

4.1. USA, Japan, Countries of the Visegrad Group

The Chairmanship, in cooperation with the GUAM Council and organisational and technical support from the Secretariat, will contribute to developing cooperation between GUAM and partner countries. Regular meetings GUAM-US, GUAM-Japan, GUAM-Visegrad countries, GUAM-Baltic and Scandinavian countries and GUAM-Pacific Alliance will be organised in order to develop political dialogue with them on a wide range of issues regarding international cooperation, including problems regarding the peaceful settlement of conflicts in the GUAM region. A plan for sectoral cooperation in the "GUAM+" framework will also be drafted, particularly in areas such as transport, energy, tourism, education, and fighting crime.

4.2. Cooperation with International Organisations

The Chairmanship, in cooperation with the GUAM Council and assistance from the Secretariat, will continue to develop cooperation between GUAM and primarily those international organisations that have provided GUAM with an observer status or have concluded relevant agreements with GUAM and have established partnerships. In particular, these include the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the EU, the Visegrad group, UNODC, the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the Ukrainian Scientific-Technical Centre (USTC), the Pacific Alliance, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and UNCTAD. The Chairmanship will also seek,

where possible, to expand such relations and cooperation with other international, regional and non-governmental organisations interested in partnerships and cooperation with GUAM.

Particular attention will be paid to developing dialogue with the European Union. In particular, the Chairmanship will enhance cooperation between countries participating in the Eastern Partnership.

V. GUAM INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK, INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE GUAM ACTIVITIES

5.1. Institutional Development

The Chairmanship will facilitate the enhancement of the Organization's institutional development with its permanent and technically well-equipped Secretariat, capable of holding GUAM meetings, including with representatives of other states and international organisations and high level activities, and will also support the communication with the capitals of GUAM member-states in real-time with the assistance of the modern means of communication.

5.2. Improving the Legal Framework

Priority will be given to the issues of developing the legal framework of GUAM, particularly the completion of the process of ratification of the GUAM documents and concluding the Headquarters Agreement between Ukraine and GUAM on the seat of the GUAM Secretariat in Kyiv.

5.3. Informational Support for GUAM Activities

The Chairmanship will regularly highlight the implementation of the Chairmanship's Programme through briefings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, and will promote, with organisational and technical support from the Secretariat, the exchange of information between GUAM member-states, as well as the posting of the relevant information on GUAM activities on the websites of the member-states.