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Prevention of armed conflict

Culture of peace

General and complete disarmament: confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Letter dated 2 November 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as a representative of the country coordinator of GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova), I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the States members of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM, issued at the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States, held in Minsk on 16 October 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 11, 44, Culture of peace and 90 (n).

(*Signed*) Viktor **Kryzhanivskyi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 2 November 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova (GUAM), member States of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development

The Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM welcomes the decision by Georgia to try to defuse the situation that has arisen in its bilateral relations with the Russian Federation by repatriating Russian servicemen detained in Georgia. Any inappropriate action by one of the States of the Commonwealth of Independent States against any other runs counter to the principle of mutual relations laid down in the fundamental instruments of the Commonwealth.

GUAM calls on States to refrain from unilateral acts directed at Georgia with a view to severing economic, humanitarian and other inter-State contacts.

GUAM expresses its conviction that the problems that have arisen, including those related to conflict settlement, should be resolved at the negotiating table, in accordance with the generally accepted standards and principles of international law, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental instruments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

GUAM welcomes the Russian Federation's undertaking to remove Russian military bases and military facilities of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus from the territory of Georgia during the course of 2008.

GUAM also welcomes Georgia's initiatives on settling the conflicts in its territory, particularly in proposals directed at extending the scope of negotiations and peacekeeping operations.

GUAM calls on other Commonwealth member States to support efforts aimed at overcoming the crisis in the relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia.