

# УКРАЇНА



# UKRAINE

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## STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Valeriy Kuchinsky,  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN,

on behalf of the GUUAM

at the plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly  
on the report of the Secretary-General

**“In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights”**

7 April 2005

**Mr. President,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the GUUAM.

The GUUAM welcomes the submission by the Secretary-General of the Report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration “*In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights*” (A/59/2005). We would like to thank Mr. Kofi Annan for this valuable document, which testifies once again to his commitment to contribute actively to building more secure and prosperous world for all.

The GUUAM considers this Report as the highly important contribution to the ongoing process of preparation for the UN Summit in September. We share the approach on the need to address and take action in three priority and interlinked areas of development, security and human rights, as well as to make the UN more effective instrument for pursuing those priorities. The package of proposals and recommendations for decision by the Heads of States and Governments contained in the report, not being exhaustive, could be considered as the basis for further substantive and target-oriented work.

However, as probably is the case with any other delegation in this Hall, I have to note that the Report does not fully reflect the views and concerns expressed by the GUUAM and its Member States during the previous informal debates on several issues. Among those, for example, the position on the enlargement of the Security Council, the need to address the specific concerns of countries with economy in transition, or the problem of the human trafficking.

While the report is now being thoroughly studied in our capitals, and in anticipation of the detailed discussions on the clusters of issues in the coming weeks and months, I would like to make several comments at this meeting of the Assembly.

We support the call for putting MDGs at the core of national **development** strategies, tailored to local realities. The respect for human rights, a vibrant civil society, an entrepreneurial private sector and good governance at all levels are essential if these strategies are to be implemented. In the meantime, we highlight the importance of a balanced approach in reviewing roles and responsibilities as well as commitments and contributions of all relevant stakeholders to this process.

We strongly believe that, as it is provided by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly the United Nations, its specialized agencies, regional commissions, and international financial institutions should continue to provide assistance to the economies in transition to ensure that they are fully and effectively integrated into the world economy. The success stories of some do not forebode the sustained development for all transition economies.

The GUUAM welcomes the attention in the report to fighting HIV/AIDS and other diseases in most affected regions like sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. We also emphasize the critical need for renewed focus on those countries of the Eastern Europe and Caucasus where the steepest rise in HIV spread has occurred. Recognizing that comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS requires the long-term and sustainable financial resources, we call upon international donors to live up to their commitments in replenishing the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The GUUAM expresses its support for the new vision of collective security that addresses the security concerns of all states – a threat to one is a threat to all. We do believe that this approach could bridge the existing gap between divergent views on security.

We fully concur with the need to revitalize the multilateral frameworks for handling threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and to restore confidence in the multilateral mechanisms of **arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation**. It is necessary to ensure the effective implementation, firmer verification and enforcement of the existing international instruments in this area. Disarmament and nonproliferation are mutually connected and dependable, particularly with regard to the nuclear weapons. Simultaneous progress in both is urgently required. GUUAM calls for more active use of existing initiatives to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and means of their delivery. The role of the SC in this regard is highly important.

The problem of **combating terrorism** requires sustained, long-term and global actions and, therefore, we welcome the presentation by the Secretary-General of the comprehensive UN counter-terrorism strategy. We are also of the view that promotion of a closer cooperation and coordination with international, regional and sub-regional organizations should be an essential part of such strategy. The GUUAM hopes that the proposed elements of the definition of terrorism could facilitate conclusion of the work on the draft of comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

As has been argued in the recent report of the High-Level Panel, **the use of force** is “a vital component of any workable system of collective security”. The GUUAM considers that the UN Charter clearly prohibits the threat or use of force against any State except for inherent right of self-defense as reflected in Article 51 and measures authorized by the Security Council under Chapter VII or Chapter VIII. We agree with the importance to define and adopt the criteria of legitimacy of authorizing the use of force by the Council. Situations where the national authorities are unwilling or unable to protect its population from genocide, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity may require effective action by the international community in accordance with international law,

including enforcement measures in exceptional circumstances. We believe though that such measures could only be taken as the last resort and under the explicit mandate of the Security Council.

We do not think that recommendations put forward in the Secretary-General's report on institutional reform in the **human rights** area offer a magical solution to all the problems that we have to discuss – nor were they intended to – but we certainly believe that they offer a good point of departure for the creative and innovative measures that are needed to reinvigorate the human rights machinery of the United Nations. The recommendations made in the report deserve our consideration in order to ensure that the improved human rights machinery of the United Nations will enjoy overall credibility and will strengthen the capacities of the Organization to effectively address the important issues on its human rights agenda. We support the idea of further mainstreaming human rights into the overall activity of the United Nations system. In this regard we are looking forward to more details on the establishment and functioning of the Human Rights Council, its mandate, membership and relation to other United Nations institutions.

In the same vein, the idea of creation of a **Democratic Fund** at the United Nations to provide funding and technical assistance to countries seeking to establish or strengthen their democracy, deserves to be positively considered by the UN Member States.

The GUUAM associates itself with the statement delivered by the Chair of the Group of Eastern European States on the issue of the **reform of the UN Security Council**. Allocation of at least one additional non-permanent seat to the Eastern European Group, composition of which has more than doubled in the last 15 years, is the important condition for our support of any reform proposal. In line with the position of the Secretary-General we advocate greater involvement in the decision-making process in the Security Council of those countries who contribute most to the Organization - militarily, diplomatically and financially. The GUUAM Member States agree that the enlargement of the Security Council should go hand to hand with the reform of its working methods in order to make them more efficient and transparent and to increase the democratic and accountable nature of the body. It is important to ensure that the activities of the Security Council are relevant to the concerns of Member States and its decisions are implemented.

The UN reform should not be limited to the enlargement of the Security Council. We fully support the need to revitalize the activities of the General Assembly as a chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively. It is important also to strengthen and to enhance the relevance of the ECOSOC.

We also positively consider the proposal to establish the **UN Peacebuilding Commission** in order to fill the existing institutional vacuum in this important area and are looking forward to further details and discussions on this issue.

And last but not least, the GUUAM fully agrees with the Secretary General, who points out in the introduction to his Report that “none of the proposals advanced here obviate the need for urgent action this year to make progress in resolving **protracted conflicts** that threaten regional and global stability”, that should be done on the basis of the norms and principles of the international law, in particular, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

**Mr. President,**

People all over the world hope that at the Summit in September our leaders would be able to give the new breath to the United Nations and adopt a package of far-reaching decisions aimed at strengthening the collective actions in response to global challenges. It is now the responsibility of us – the Member States – to mobilize our efforts in order to see those expectations realized. And you, Mr. President, may count on full support and cooperation of the GUUAM Member States in your efforts to achieve tangible results in the coming months.