

# **THE CHAIRMANSHIP PROGRAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA in the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM for 2018**

## **INTRODUCTION**

During the entire period of its existence, the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM has successfully approved its status on the world stage as a full-fledged international regional organization. Active work is continuing on the implementation of goals and objectives which are formulated in the organization's statutory documents. The full agenda of cooperation includes the following topics: political interaction, sectoral cooperation, development of partnership in the *GUAM+ format* and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

The Moldovan Chairmanship expresses its intent to continue the positive dynamics of cooperation in the framework of the GUAM in 2018. During its mandate, the Republic of Moldova will pay special attention to all issues on the agenda, for the benefit of deepening the strategic development of the Organization and strengthening its positions in the system of international and regional cooperation.

The Moldovan Chairmanship also intends to contribute to deepening political interaction within the Organization with a view to strengthening regional security and stability, as well as fully using the potential of sectoral cooperation.

The Moldovan Chairmanship would like to put forward the following priorities of cooperation:

- Ensuring the functioning of the GUAM Free Trade Area, including the prospect of turning the GUAM into an investment-friendly platform;
- Activization of sectoral interaction in key areas such as economy, transport, energy and energy security, tourism, internal affairs, on the basis of the Plan of Actions on Sectoral Cooperation Development;
- Capitalization of the existing transport and transit potential of the GUAM region by boosting the activity of the working group in this area and ensuring the interaction of more structures in the region. Taking necessary actions for the implementation of the Concept of Development of the GUAM Transport Corridor, *inter alia*, to develop the relevant Plan of actions;
- Increasing the quality of cooperation and exchange of information in education, science, research and innovation, inclusively, by means of assessing the opportunities offered by the GUAM-Japan, GUAM-USA and GUAM-Visegrad cooperation platforms;
- Strengthening of the political dialogue by organizing high level meetings (CMFA, CNC, PM, PA GUAM) in Chisinau and promoting the draft collective resolution on Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area at the next session of the UN General Assembly;
- Drafting and submitting the resolution on UN-GUAM cooperation (biennially);
- Strengthening and expanding of international cooperation in the *GUAM + format*, in particular with the EU and the OSCE; promoting a constructive dialogue with "traditional" partners – the US, Japan and the Visegrad Group;
- Reorganizing and streamlining the activity of sectoral working groups.

Taking into account the above-mentioned priorities, the Republic of Moldova will further focus on the following main areas:

- I. Political interaction;
- II. Sectoral cooperation;
- III. Inter-parliamentary cooperation;
- IV. Improvement of the juridical base, providing information support for the GUAM activities.

## **I. POLITICAL INTERACTION**

The Chairmanship acknowledges that close coordination and unanimous adherence to the principles and norms of international law, as well as to the principle of solidarity, – contribute to strengthening political cooperation within GUAM. This vision is expressed in the implementation of those projects and initiatives that have unconditional support of all Four Member States. The Chairman will consistently follow up this principle.

At the same time, the Chairmanship believes that it would be useful to determine the strategic expectations of the Member States regarding the GUAM and to exchange views on the possibility of developing a common (strategic) vision of the GUAM, as well as agreeing on the prospects and main directions for the further development of the Organization. In this regard, the Chairmanship proposes to hold a meeting of the Heads of Governments of the GUAM Member States in 2018, being aware of the important political significance of this event.

### **1.1 Interaction in the framework of multilateral formats and the cooperation with international organizations**

The Chairmanship will contribute to the development of GUAM cooperation of first of all with those international organizations which were granted the observer status in GUAM or with which were signed the convenient agreements and established partnership relations, in particular, with the following ones: UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, EU, Visegrad Group, UNODC, IRU, STCU, Pacific Alliance, UNECE, UNCTAD, and also will seek the possibility to expand such cooperation with other international, regional and non-governmental organizations, which are interested in partnership and cooperation with GUAM (for example: Alliance of Civilizations, WTO).

The Chairmanship will carry out the following activities in the field of combating crime and terrorism:

- Cooperation with the Executive Committee of the United Nations Anti-Terrorism Committee;
- Cooperation with UNODC (in the field of combating money laundering, drug trafficking);
- Cooperation with OSCE, including opportunities to expand the OSCE projects in the area of border radiation and environmental control; cyber security engagement;
- Cooperation with European Union (in the framework of the EU project "Heroin Route II – Information Networks project");

- Cooperation in the frameworks of Council of Europe, in particular with the Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER); participation in the Council of Europe's activities on combating cybercrime;
- Development of relations with the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) for the purpose of strengthening regional and trans-regional cooperation in combating crime, in particular money laundering and corruption; legal statistics and risk analysis.

## **1.2. Cooperation with partner countries**

The Chairmanship will promote the development of cooperation both with traditional partner countries and with new ones. In this respect, the organizational and preparatory work will be carried out to hold the meetings with traditional partners of the GUAM – U.S. and Japan, and with other countries, such as: Countries of the Visegrad Group, Baltic States and Nordic Countries. The Chairmanship attaches particular importance to the aim of developing a political dialogue with them on a wide range of issues of international cooperation, primarily on the issues of peaceful settlement of conflicts in the GUAM region, and also the development of projects in various areas, in particular in such areas as transport, energy, tourism, education, combating crime, cyber security and in the field of elimination of consequences of emergency situations.

### **GUAM - USA**

The Chairmanship considers it particularly important to further intensify the cooperation with American partners in order to use more effectively the potential of the *GUAM-U.S. format*. In this regard, the Chairmanship will take up consultations with United States in order to establish common areas of cooperation aiming to maintain peace, ensure security and stability in the region, deepen the cooperation in implementing important regional projects in the areas of infrastructure, transport, energy, trade, organized crime, cyber security, etc., including improving the system of good governance and decision-making, as well as creating a competitive business environment.

Upon the results of consultations, the Member States will examine the possibility to adopt the Second Framework Cooperation Program. The Chairmanship will facilitate progress towards reaching this objective.

### **GUAM – Japan**

The Chairmanship also considers it important to continue the intense cooperation in the *GUAM-Japan format*, which is based on the Cooperation Program/Agreement (December 2015). This program offers favorable prerequisites for deepening cooperation in areas of mutual interest, such as: infrastructure, transport, tourism, energy, culture, agriculture, ecology, emergency management, etc., by means of development and implementation of relevant projects.

In order to deepen the cooperation, the Chairmanship considers that it would be appropriate to hold regular political consultations at the level of the GUAM National Coordinators.

The GUAM-Japan seminar on Small and Medium Size Enterprise Promotion, planned for late January/early February 2018, will facilitate the exchange of experience in this field and, accordingly, the possibility of developing of new projects in the GUAM-Japan format of cooperation.

## **GUAM-EU**

The signing and ratification of three Association Agreements and the opening of the negotiation process on the Comprehensive Agreement on Cooperation between the EU and Azerbaijan, open up new prospects and opportunities for agreeing upon and developing the *EU-GUAM cooperation format*. To this end, it is proposed to hold consultations in the GUAM-EU format to determine the main areas of cooperation, as well as to establish a mechanism for regular consultations.

## **Visegrad Group (V-4)**

The Chairmanship welcomes the measures taken to make more active and identify the main areas of cooperation between V4 and GUAM. The Chairmanship will facilitate consultations with V4 in order to adopt a program of work/plan for cooperation, as well as renewal of the political dialogue and consultations at the level of MFAs. Particular attention will be paid to identifying areas of mutual interest, with the aim of establishing sectoral cooperation and developing joint initiatives.

## **II. SECTORAL COOPERATION**

In carrying out its functions, the Chairmanship intends to actively promote the principle of intensification of sectoral cooperation, as well as its further development in accordance with the statutory goals and tasks of GUAM and, in pursuance of the decisions reached at the meetings of the respective governing/high level bodies.

The Chairmanship will pay special attention to the development of sectoral cooperation in such areas as economy, trade, transport, tourism, combating crime, and also fully promote the development of cooperation and implementation of the specific projects and programs in the GUAM and GUAM+ formats. In this regard, a list of tasks and priorities aimed at reorganizing and optimizing of the activities of sectoral working groups will be presented.

In cooperation with the GUAM National Coordinators and with the coordinating countries of the sectoral working groups and with other working bodies of the GUAM, and taking into consideration the organizational and technical support of the Secretariat, the Chairmanship will pursue the following priority areas in order to facilitate sectoral cooperation:

### **2.1. Economy and trade**

- To support the implementation of the GUAM Plan of actions for stimulating sectoral cooperation (section "Economics and Trade");
- To facilitate the organization of the reunion of experts for the purpose of finalizing and approving the Protocol on regulations determining the country of origin of goods to the Agreement on Establishment of Free Trade Area among the GUUAM Participating States;

- To facilitate the organization of the first meeting of the Working Body which coordinates the actions of the contracting Parties of the Agreement on Establishment of Free Trade Area among the GUUAM Participating States of 20 July 2002, with the aim of removing barriers to the development of the Free Trade Area.

## **2.2. Transport**

- To support the implementation of the Plan of actions for stimulating sectoral cooperation (section "Transport");
- To support the implementation of the Plan actions on development of the international transport in the GUAM corridor for 2018-2020;
- To facilitate the adoption of the "Technical Assistance for development of the GUAM Transport Corridor" and its further implementation;
- To facilitate the approval of the maps on GUAM transport corridor and on international transport corridors and routes which are running to member states' territories.

## **2.3. Trade and Transport Facilitation**

- To support the implementation of the Plan of actions for stimulating sectoral cooperation (section "Steering Committee of the Trade and Transport Facilitation Project" (TTFP SC)).
- To support the implementation of the Protocol between the Customs Administrations of the GUAM Member States on the organization of the exchange of preliminary information on goods and vehicles transported across the state borders of the GUAM Member States;
- To support the implementation of the "Protocol between the Customs administrations of the GUAM Member States on mutual recognition of certain results of customs procedures regarding goods and vehicles moved across the state borders";
- To facilitate the adoption of the "Agreement between the customs administrations of the GUAM Member States on facilitating the transit of goods and vehicles across the territories of the GUAM Member States";
- To facilitate the adoption of the "Protocol between the customs administrations of the GUAM Member States on cooperation in the field of combating customs offenses related to the movement of goods by air through the state borders of the GUAM Member States";
- To facilitate the development of the "GUAM Digital Trade Hub" and to facilitate the organization of a round table on this topic;
- To facilitate the development and adoption of a concept for using and recognition of electronic signatures, including mobile electronic signatures (EDS) during the customs clearance of goods and vehicles which are transported across the state borders of the GUAM Member States.

## **2.4. Energy**

- To facilitate the organization of the meeting of Working Group on Energy;
- To facilitate the consultations on a wide range of issues of energy cooperation and energy security in the framework of the Working Group on Energy;
- To facilitate the development of projects on the basis of Strategy for sectoral cooperation.

## **2.5. Information Technologies**

- To facilitate the consultations on the issue of country-coordinator in the Working Group on Information Technologies and the organization of its meeting;
- To facilitate the activation and further development of cooperation on information technologies in the frameworks of this Working Group;
- To facilitate the systematic exchange of information on the improvement of legislation, statistical data, macro-indicators and ongoing projects in this field;
- To facilitate the participation in the planned exhibitions and conferences in the field of information and communication technologies.

## **2.6. Science and education**

- To facilitate the organization of the meeting of Working Group on Science and Education and to enhance the cooperation in this field;
- To facilitate the organization of the meeting of Working Subgroup on Science and Innovation and to enhance the cooperation in this field;
- To support the implementation of the Plan of actions of the above-mentioned working groups;
- To facilitate the collective work in the framework of the “Horizon 2020” project;
- To facilitate the organization of the competitions for students from the GUAM Member States in the field of science and education;
- To promote the cooperation and to develop and implement other agreed activities in these fields.

## **2.7. Culture and tourism**

- To support the implementation of the Plan of actions for Tourism Development in the framework of cooperation between GUAM and Japan for 2017-2020;
- To support the implementation of the Working Plan for 2017-2018;
- To facilitate the organization of a press tour for interested representatives of Japanese media agencies;
- To facilitate the development of the GUAM Concept on Cultural Corridor;
- To facilitate mutual participation in tourism exhibitions of the GUAM Member States.

## 2.8. Combating terrorism and crime

- To support the implementation of the Plan of actions of the Working Group on Coordination on Combating Crime (WGCCC) for 2018;
- To facilitate the organization of planned meetings of the GUAM working bodies as stipulated by the regulations, as well as to ensure the observance of the principles of continuity and due representation in the composition of national delegations;
- To facilitate the development and consolidation of cooperation in the frameworks of law enforcement and anti-terrorist spheres, including the operational work of the representatives of units of competent bodies on combating organized crime;
- To intensify the activity of the Working Group on Cyber Security; signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation among the GUAM Member States in this field;
- To continue the work on expanding of international cooperation and to strengthen the capacity in countering cyber-attacks, especially on the strategically important facilities;
- To facilitate the development and implementation of joint proposals, projects and programs, including projects on extension of the GUAM IAM infrastructure facilities;
- To facilitate fundraising efforts that will ensure financial sustainability of the GUAM;
- To support the implementation of joint projects with UNODC on money laundering using cryptocurrencies and prosecutorial practice. To pay special attention to the cryptocurrencies and to the question of returning funds from offshore zones. To continue exchange of experience on this subject, including the possibility of involvement of experts from this field, as well as the representative of the National Bank of Ukraine;
- To facilitate the studies on the issue of money laundering in the fields of casinos (gambling houses) and estate markets, in particular, with the participation of relevant experts from the GUAM Member States and from other countries;
- To facilitate the organization of the meetings of relevant working bodies of national business ombudsmen of the GUAM Member States;
- To facilitate the implementation of the GUAM project "Optimization of collection and processing of information on legal statistics in law enforcement agencies and other competent authorities of the GUAM Member States";
- To use the possibilities to make joint actions of the GUAM representative to attract resources of international organizations, such as: EU, CoE, OSCE, UNODC, INTERPOL, EUROPOL and other ones, in order to implement joint projects in the field of money laundering by means of virtual currencies; combating international terrorism, illegal migration and human trafficking, trans-boundary environmental crimes, drug trafficking, in the field of legal statistics, as well as within the UNODC Afghan Opiate Trade Project.
- To intensify the work on resolving the issues of establishing of automated databank for the persons being wanted, committed or suspected of committing crimes, as well as the persons brought to justice for crimes in the sphere of drug trafficking and human trafficking;
- To continue the activity of data collection and compilation of the GUAM statistical bulletin. Searching for ways to implement the draft Concept in the field of legal statistics;

- To facilitate the studies on the issue of modernization and training of personnel servicing the MIAS GUAM system. To continue searching for financial and technical support in carrying out of these tasks;
- To facilitate the active involvement of the POLICOM resources and to examine the possibility to operate in an open mode during the intercessional period of the subgroup's work, in order to store up the budgetary funds. To promote the modernization of the POLICOM, as well as training its personnel and search for financial and technical support in the implementation of its tasks;
- To facilitate the audit process and to intensify the cooperation within the GUAM Virtual Center (VC) on combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous crimes;
- To facilitate the development of analytical tools in the process of cooperation among the competent authorities of the GUAM Member States, including the component of criminal and risk analysis. To facilitate the organization of the visit to EUROSTAT headquarters in Luxembourg for the purpose of sharing experiences and familiarization with the European methods of legal statistics;
- To promote the effectiveness of cooperation in the field of forecasting and in using of the resources in the most important areas of crime control;
- To facilitate the linkages among the police academies and to promote the cooperation in sphere of training of national police officers. To share relevant practices and experiences in this field;
- To facilitate the cooperation between GUAM and international partners/organizations, in particular with EU, OSCE, Council of Europe, UNODC, United Nations Anti-Terrorism Committee, Alliance of Civilizations, Southeast European Law Enforcement Center SELEC, Eurostat.

## **2.9. Prevention and response to emergency situations**

- To promote the effectiveness of institutions in charge of responding to emergencies and natural disasters and their interaction at the national and regional levels;
- To continue the work on the list of rescue units, technical means and equipment that can be allocated to provide assistance to the requesting party in the case of an emergency;
- To facilitate the studies on opportunities to develop the cooperation with other international partners, in particular in the field of emergency response at LNG terminal facilities, as well as on improvement of the national warning system and on training of rescue units and services for actions in crowded public places;
- To facilitate the development of regional interaction among emergency agencies on the issues of response to threats of nuclear radiation, chemical and biological terrorism;
- To facilitate the implementation of the project: "The Evaluation of risks and threats, and rehabilitation of territories affected by military conflicts and emergencies in the GUAM Member States";
- To facilitate the cooperation with other international organizations in this field.



## **2.10. Consular cooperation**

- To facilitate the cooperation in consular matters;
- To facilitate the organization of joint seminars/trainings coordinated by the GUAM Secretariat.

## **2.11. Cooperation in the field of youth and sports**

- To facilitate the organization of the meeting of the Working Group on Youth and Sports in order to intensify cooperation in this field;
- To facilitate the establishment of the annual GUAM Student Days competition with participation of students from higher educational institutions of the GUAM Member States;
- To facilitate the organization of the GUAM Youth Organizations' Forum with the participation of the representatives of informal organizations from the GUAM Member States, as well as the experts on youth policy and experts from international organizations;
- To promote the cooperation, and to develop and implement other agreed activities in these fields.
- To facilitate the establishment of an exchange program among public sector employees in the field of sports, with the purpose of exchanging the experience and improving skills on the territory of the GUAM Member States.

## **III. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION WITHIN THE GUAM PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

In its capacity of Chairmanship of the GUAM, and with the organizational and technical support of the Secretariat, the Republic of Moldova plans to implement activities with the aim to develop inter-parliamentary cooperation, as follows:

- To facilitate further cooperation in the legislative sphere in the context of interaction among the Parliaments of the GUAM Member States and with other international parliamentary organizations. To facilitate the development of model legislative acts and ratification procedures of the GUAM documents, etc. To facilitate the development of cooperation of the GUAM PA with the PA of other international organizations, in particular, with Baltic Assembly, OSCE PA, PA CE, EURONEST PA, Turkic Council (TURKPA), PABSEC, Benelux PA, etc.;
- To facilitate the productive activity of the Bureau and of the Sectoral Committees (PA), including the organization of meetings in the coordinator-countries;
- To continue the practice of participation of the group of observers in the parliamentary and presidential elections in the GUAM Member States;
- To promote the tradition of holding meetings of the sectoral committees on security, on political and legal matters, on trade and economic issues, as well as on issues of culture and

- education, both in the framework of the GUAM PA, and in the GUAM Secretariat/Member States – the coordinators of the Sectoral Committees;
- To facilitate the organization of the meetings of the Bureau of the PA in 2018, the meetings of the Sectoral Committees (PA) and the next meeting of the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly in 2018.

#### **IV. IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONTRACTUAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK, INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR THE GUAM ACTIVITIES**

##### **4.1. Improvement of the contractual and legal framework**

The Chairmanship considers it appropriate to make an inventory of the contractual and legal frameworks of cooperation within the sectoral working groups and other bodies of GUAM.

In order to promote further intensification of cooperation in the framework of GUAM and to develop cooperation with other international and regional organizations, will be continued the work on the development of documents in the *GUAM+ format*, as well as on coordinating the issues of GUAM representation in international events.

##### **4.2. Information support for the GUAM activities**

The Chairmanship finds it necessary to promptly and objectively highlight the activities of the Organization, and to popularize the GUAM as an important regional platform by posting information on the official website, on the pages of the Secretariat in the social networks Facebook and Twitter, and by exchanging such information among the respective ministries of the GUAM Member States by means of social networks.

The Chairmanship proposes to examine the possibilities of creating the GUAM archives in the electronic-digital format.