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Research Guide



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Agenda 1: Prevention of illegal trafficking of weapons in combat zones**I. Committee Introduction**

The General Assembly first committee also known as DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee) mainly copes with all disarmament problem of the international society. As stated in the UN Article 11 of Chapter IV of the UN Charter, “The General Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armament.” The common issues that GA1 has dealt with are first, national, regional and global security, second, biological, chemical, technological, and nuclear weapons, and lastly arms trade. While mostly managing former mentioned issues, the GA1 works to maintain the and simultaneously it promotes the non-proliferation of fatal weapons. The increase of weapon usage and the development of weapon technology that leads to security threat issues, has raised the importance of the GA1’s role. Although the committee does not have any binding power and is not allowed to impose sanctions or authorize particular weapons intervention, the committee can make recommendations for UN Security Council to discuss on. Still, delegates should recognize the significant role of GA1 to resolve the international crises within the disarmament problem of the weapons.

II. Background

The illegal trafficking of weapons has long been a global issue to be solved. Since weapon trafficking in conflict regions is a deadly security problem both for civilian entities and governmental institutions, nations are seeking for solutions to eradicate illegal transfer of arms in international scale.

The illicit trade in arms is especially concentrated in areas suffering from armed conflict, violence, and organized crime, where the demand for weapons is the highest. Arms trafficking undoubtedly fuels civil wars, regional conflicts and the emergence of global terrorist entities. A representative example of illegal weapon trafficking terrorist group is the Islamic State. Islamic State, also known as ISIS has been collecting military supplies via Iraqi army as well as black market since 1999 and executed terrorist attack on civilian lives in numerous occasions. Terrorist attack in Paris in November 2015 along with the bomb explosion in 2016, Germany, not to mention approximately 11000 civilian casualties in Iraq-Syrian regions during the recent battling between the US and the ISIS Armed forces.

The easy accessibility of weapons via illegal routes, especially in the developing nations, and the ineffective efforts to control the trade have contributed to the devastating violence nowadays. Since illicit trafficking of weapons can further lead to the emergence of terrorist groups and cartels, who are the main adversary to the cohesion of the global society, there is no doubt that the international cooperation amongst nations is strongly required to consider illicit arms trafficking; prevent potential threats to the civilian lives.

Black market trafficking takes place on a regional or local level; publicly available data suggests



that the multi-ton, inter-continental shipments organized by the ‘merchants of death’ account for only a small fraction of illicit transfers. Among the most important forms of illicit trafficking is the ‘ant trade’ shipments of small numbers of weapons that, over time, result in the accumulation of large numbers of illicit weapons by unauthorized end users. For instance, thousands of firearms seized in Mexico are traced to the United States. Around 13000 firearms illegally cross the US-Mexico border annually.

While most arms trafficking appears to be conducted by private entities, certain governments also contribute to the illicit trade by deliberately arming proxy groups involved in insurgencies against rival governments, terrorists with similar ideological agendas, or other non-state armed groups. These types of transfers, which are prevalent in Africa and other regions where armed conflict is common, are often conducted in contravention of United Nations arms embargoes and have the potential to destabilize neighbouring countries.

III. Major Issues

Absence of powerful Law

Although the number of illicit arm trade is constantly increasing, there are lack of government restrictions to enforce the law in major weapon manufacturing nations. The illegal weapon trafficking will not be eradicated if not the world government set up powerful laws regarding the illicit arms trafficking and have ability to execute the decree.

Corrupt state officials

Most weapon industries are positioned in developed states; corruption of the officials in government organization causes the developed nation to illegally export arms to the conflicted regions or private entities secretly. It is important to classify the source of illicit weapons inside the government organisations with hard power.

Terrorist Groups

Terrorist groups has been a great threat to the democratic society of nowadays. It is notable that the sorts of weapons used by the terrorist organizations are made by the democratic nations. Since terrorist organizations have no infrastructure to produce arms themselves, the restriction on the supply of weapons will be critical for further assaults.

IV. Previous Actions

As to prevent the use of illicit weapons and illegal trafficking of weapons, there has been several effortful actions made by diverse organizations and international branches.

→ United States of America



Since the corruption of firearms has become an important source for drug dealers, “a federal law enacted in 1986”. The Sellers in United States must have a “federal firearms license issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE)” and must obtain “records of their inventory and the guns they sell. However, later on it was found that “BATFE is limited in its ability to inspect and punish dealers who funnel guns to criminals”. The states have tried hard to prevent this situation by “requiring their own state license in addition to the federal license” but only 17 states require a state license and other two mandate regular inspection of dealers”.

→ Mexico

Firearms trafficking in US has affected Mexico to empower Mexican criminals which have contributed to a rise of violence across the country. The rate of crime has rapidly increased from 2004 to 2012 from “58 percent” to “65 percent”. 2011 was peak when the rate of “crimes committed with a firearm was about 78 percent”. The common type of firearm in Mexico was “AR-15” and “AK-47”. Mexico has a faculty where they authorise the “establishment of firearm factories and business”. The *Secretaría de Defensa Nacional*, “SEDEÑA” controls and “monitors the management of activities and industrial operations of firearms.” Furthermore Ley Federal De Arms de Fuego y Explosivos, LAFE, restricts the transportation of firearms. The carriers must “register their weapons with the SEDENA and show the following: 1) they make a legitimate living; 2) they do not have a criminal record; 3) they do not consume drugs or have a record of drug consumption; 4) they demonstrate mental and physical capacity to handle firearms; 5) they have served in the military; and 6) they demonstrate a legitimate need based on job or special living circumstances.”

→ Somalia

Firearms have entered Somalia in various ways but still managed to “curb illicit flows” which has contributed to “proliferation among a range of non-state actors, including clan militias, oppositions groups, and private citizens”.

Today, illicit arms become a controversial issues at the global level which caused “culmination in september 2015 with the adoption of the sustainable development goals” and they have targeted 16.4”. This is expected to result significant decreased by 2030.

Furthermore, Somalia was able to provide information about understanding of illicit weapons of international and domestic flows. This tells the type and the model of the weapons.

→ World Customs Organization (WCO)

The WCO has developed training materials and tools to support its Members (182 countries from 6 regions: 1. South America, North America, Central America and the Caribbean 2.

Europe 3. Far East, South and South-East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands 4. North of Africa, Near and Middle East 5. West and Central Africa 6. East and Southern Africa) in preventing the trafficking of weapons and ammunition. Numerous international management



regimes for SALW (e.g. Programme of Action to fight the illicit exchange SALWI and Arms Trade Treaty²) highlight the role Customs plays in detection illicit trafficking and in observation international weapons transfers. In 2017, the WCO Security Programme delivered 2 National SALW coaching workshops and a Regional SALW workshop for the Asia- Pacific region. The latter event was conducted below the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Security Project, and through this project, the WCO is developing a full set of tools and training materials for its Members relating to the identification and detection of SALW, moreover as safe handling and best practices for weapons tracing, storage and proof assortment.

Furthermore, the World Customs Organization put “Strategic Trade Control Enforcement Programme” into act. The WCO Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE) Programme is intended to ascertain, develop and strengthen Members’ capacities by restricting the proliferation of strategic merchandise. This includes weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, nuclear and tomography weapons), including their methods of delivery and also the materials required to develop them. The STCE Programme focuses on enlarging national capabilities of Customs administrations, supporting them to adjust to the binding non-proliferation obligations set forth by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

V. Possible Actions & Solutions

Most firearm control policies are designed to keep firearms away from dangerous people. Particularly in the US, purchasers of firearms from licensed dealers must undergo a background check to verify their eligibility status. Convicted felons, certain misdemeanants and several other categories of prohibited people may not lawfully purchase or possess firearms.

One way that firearms can move from the licit to the illicit market is through theft. Approximately 500,000 firearms are stolen from US homes annually. Guns may also be stolen directly from dealers. Laws that require prompt reporting of thefts enhance owner accountability. Without mandatory theft reporting, when law enforcement attempts to determine if a gun has been transferred unlawfully, an owner can more easily claim that his or her gun was stolen at some point in the past.

Routine tracing of firearms recovered from criminals is key to the effective enforcement of each of these policies. Firearms in the US are required to have a unique serial number, enabling the government to identify both the dealer and the first retail purchaser of guns used in crime. Those trace data can be used by law enforcement to identify dealers who sell a disproportionate number of crime guns. Those dealers can then be subjected to heightened scrutiny. Individual traffickers can also be identified through trace data.



VI. Definition of Key Terms

- **Small arms / light weapons:** Small arms are a small portable weapon, where the resolvers need to “self-load the pistols, rifles and carbines”. This includes small submachine guns, hand guns, and light machine guns. Light weapons are also portable machine guns which are heavier than small arms. This includes “portable anti-aircraft guns” and “portable anti-tank guns”. Both of these are used in several conflicts around the world.
- **Illegal trafficking :** Illegal trafficking refers to illegal practice of selling and trading of specific goods. These are strictly prohibited by law and are intended activities.
- **ISIS:** ISIS is an acronym that stands for Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The mission of ISIS is the establishment of a worldwide Caliphate, reflected in frequent media reports by means of images of the world united under a ISIS banner.
- **Combat zone:** Combat zone is an area designed in the war period. This area is “where combat forces operate” and it is specific used in the certain time period to “report to the internal revenue service by military personal”.
- **Arms trafficking:** Arms trafficking is also called as gunrunning. This is the activity of smuggling weapons and guns into the country. Firearms are trade in a wide range. The variation of firearms is caused by the country’s law.

VII. Affiliated Document & Organizations

1) General Assembly resolution 54/54 V of 15 December 1999

Resolution 54/54 V of 15 December 1999. The general assembly has made a decision to call together the United Nations Conference on the Illicit trade in Small arms and Light Weapons in the period of June/July 2001. The general assembly marked to find out a preparatory committee to unlock to all the participants of states with the condition of no fewer than three sessions. On the period of 28 February to 3 to March 2000, the first is held in New York. Next session takes place in New York during 8 to 19 January 2001. Document A/CONF.192/1 includes the reports done by preparatory committee. According to their decision 55/415 the General Assembly determined to call out the United Nations Conference about Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons with various views. This places in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001.

2) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations/Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

ECOSOC, in 2000 has finished a convention on Transnational Crime as well as a draft protocol on illicit firearms trafficking attached on it. The General Assembly has adopted this Firearms Protocol on 31 May



2001 55/255. (Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime) This protocol promotes the facilitation of the cooperation within State Members in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. Furthermore, the Council has worked on protocols tracing and identifying the trace of firearms and international transactions in firearms.

3) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

UNIDIR, as an autonomous institution, undertook independent research on disarmament and related problems, has found the purpose of tackling the disarmament research and associated issues such as international security which has a close relationship with New York Center of Disarmament Affairs.

4) Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

In December 2014 the ATT, Arms Trade Treaty came into force. Arms Trade Treaty is an agreement that restrains irresponsible arm transfers that includes all such weapons that have negative impact on humanitarian from SALW (small arms and light weapons) and battle tanks to vast sized warships and battle aircrafts. Heretofore, this convention has total 90 countries as state parties. To help and fund the member states implement the Arms Trade Treaty, the UN has entrenched UNSCAR (the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation), a voluntary trust fund.

Furthermore, past actions to close the gates between the legal and illegal markets have also been made. In 2005, UN Member States created ITI, the International Tracing Instrument for small arms.

VIII. Critical Questions to Consider

- What regulations can be imposed on exporting the weapon itself?
- How can the problem of black markets of weapon be solved?
- What are the radical reasons of illegal trafficking?

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Agenda 2: Measures to solve protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

I. Committee Introduction

The General Assembly first committee also known as DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee) mainly copes with all disarmament problem of the international society. As stated in the UN Article 11 of Chapter IV of the UN Charter, “The General Assembly may consider the general principles of co-operation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armament.” The common issues that GA1 has dealt with are first, national, regional and global security, second, biological, chemical, technological, and nuclear weapons, and lastly arms trade. While mostly managing former mentioned issues, the GA1 works to maintain the and simultaneously it promotes the non-proliferation of fatal weapons. The increase of weapon usage and the development of weapon technology that leads to security threat issues, has raised the importance of the GA1’s role. Although the committee does not have any binding power and is not allowed to impose sanctions or authorize particular weapons intervention, the committee can make recommendations for UN Security Council to discuss on. Still, delegates should recognize the significant role of GA1 to resolve the international crises within the disarmament problem of the weapons.

II. Background

The GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development is a regional organization of four post-Soviet states: Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova. In the last 15 years, frozen conflicts in the GUAM region, namely in Moldova, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, have affected the lives of over 16 million people. Not only that, but they've remained a threat to international peace and security.

Cooperation of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova started in 1996 in Vienna, Austria, where four states proposed common goals and initiatives. During the Summit of Council of Europe in 1997, the Presidents of these states and stated their interests in developing regional cooperation. On 24 April in 1999, GUAM was expanded by one more member state, Uzbekistan. In 2006, name was changed to The Organization for Democracy and Economic Development.

GUAM is a platform named after its members Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova. Established in 1997, GUAM was originally created to improve multilateral collaboration between member nations. Nevertheless, the organization now lacks a clear purpose. The group was initiated with much support from the US, with the aim of establishing an institution to bring together countries that wanted a counterbalance to Russian influence and a guarantee of geopolitical pluralism in the post Soviet era.

Despite US support, GUAM has languished in recent years. Some of its key collaboration areas, such



as the rule of law and regional stability, are now being contradicted by member states. For instance, the political situation in Azerbaijan, which is increasingly autocratic, directly violates GUAM's democratic principles. Meanwhile, the organization has not proven an effective defense against Russia. For example, during the 2008 Russia-Georgian War, Georgia was blockaded by Russia's Black Sea Fleet, on the territory of GUAM member Ukraine.

The protracted conflicts have affected the lives of more than 16 million people for more than 15 years, threatening the international peace and security, jeopardising the sovereignty and territorial unity of three United Nations member states, making them lose control on a large part of their sovereign territories and leading to a permanent occupation of a big region of a sovereign state, causing an inflow of millions of refugees and internally displaced persons, obstructing the social-economic development of nations from that region. The international negotiations on settlement of the conflicts have failed. They have only prolonged the conflicts. The protracted conflicts defy the security, encourage the terrorism, aggressive separatism, organised crime, trafficking in human beings, trafficking in drugs, proliferation of light arms in territories uncontrolled by legitimate authorities.

The details of protracted problems of each member nations is described as such:

The introduction of "protracted conflicts" on agenda of the United Nations General Assembly means reaching the limit of "internationalisation" of conflicts and unquestionable defamation of Russia's so called "peacekeeping claims". This could mean that GUAM members and their supporters will treat Russia at international level as part of the problem of frozen conflicts, not as part of their solution from now on. However, the settlement of frozen conflicts without Russia's contribution will be impossible; thus means to resolve conflicts in GUAM area should be discussed through international cooperation.

III. Major Issues

The major issues regarding the country

Georgia

More than 2,000 Georgian civilians have lost their lives and more than 8,000 residences have been destroyed since deployment of Russian peacekeepers to Abkhazia. Russian peacekeepers have been incapable to help more than 250,000 internally displaced persons to return to their homes in at least 12 years.

Ukraine

GUAM, has supported the inclusion of the problem "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development" on the agenda of the 61st session of the U.N. General Assembly, this being an important step toward capturing the attention on the need of some actions of the international community for achieving progresses in settling the conflicts in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.



Azerbaijan

The occupation forces in Azerbaijan territory must be pulled out from the occupied territories and conditions for comeback of internally displaced people to their residences in Azerbaijan' neighbouring territories.

Republic of Moldova

More active and systematic cooperation is needed with regional organisations qualified to deal with the conflicts. Moldova continues to be concerned with situation in the security zone. The inefficiency of the current peacekeeping mechanism dictates the need to turn it into an international peacekeeping mission under an international mandate.

Refugees

One major issue that all member states of GUAM organization has is to do with the refugees. Hundreds of Thousands of refugees who are both physically and mentally displaced people from the GUAM regions are issued to be discussed.

Diplomatic Issues

The current diplomatic status of the member states of the GUAM organization is on the thin ice. With constant conflict against Russia, member states are suffering from political pressure, Russian hard power and sanction. There needs to be a breakthrough to overcome the current diplomatic flaw holes in the future.

IV. Previous Actions

1) Georgia

With the disposition of peace keepers of Russia in Georgia, more than 2,000 civilians of the country lost their lives. Moreover, more than 8,000 residences have been ravaged and in the case of IDPs(internationally displaced persons), they have been stopped to return back to their settlements for more than 12 years. Although Georgia has carried on with the peacekeeping framework and negotiation with the existing conflicts, these acts having no function anymore, it started to reach the limit. Their peacekeeping framework is revealed to have only instant shortcomings. Thus, Georgia, particularly has requested high hopes compared to other regions during the General Assembly Debate. It has been dealing two frozen conflicts, one in Abkhazia and the other in South Ossetia. At the General Assembly Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili articulated that the international organizations the hand of international organizations is desperately needed.



2) Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova has undertaken a sequence of complementary actions by “impelling the conflict resolution process, adopting the law on basic provisions of the special legal status of the districts from the left bank of the Dniester river (Transnistria), a law which guarantees the right of the region to resolve its legal, social, economic problems alone in the limits of Moldova’s Constitution.”

Also as a Chair of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development GUAM, the Republic of Moldova has promoted the collective resolution “Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development”, in the continuing General Assembly debates.

3) Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has systematically promoted the essential importance of upholding law and of its devoted application with a aspect to achieving a long-awaited breakthrough in solving the conflict and ending the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan Republic and also the suffering of the peoples littered with the Armenian aggression. Over the years since the start of the conflict, Azerbaijan has actively inspired discussions on the legal aspects of the conflict, as well as among the UN, and has delivered to the eye of the international community various legal reports. Particularly, the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted to the Secretary-General the reports on the legal consequences of the armed aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan (A/63/662-S/2008/812), ready by Yoram Dinstein, on the elemental norm of the territorial integrity of States and also the right to self-determination within the light-weight of Armenia’s communist claims (A/63/664-S/2008/823), on the international legal responsibilities of Armenia as the belligerent occupier of Azerbaijani territory (A/63/692-S/2009/51) and on the international legal rights of the Azerbaijani internally displaced persons and also the Republic of Armenia’s responsibility (A/66/787-S/2012/289), all 3 of that were ready by Malcolm N. Shaw.

Furthermore, the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted to the Secretary-General a comprehensive report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on outlawed economic and different activities within the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (A/70/1016-S/2016/711), that validated, through facts, figures and analytical information, that Armenia’s policy and practices within the occupied territories of Azerbaijan were in breach of law of nations, undermined the prospects of achieving a political settlement of the conflict and posed an impending threat to peace, security and stability within the region. The report conjointly recalled the responsibility of the international community to confirm the strict compliance by Armenia with its international obligations.

4) Ukraine

Since 2014, the conflict of the GUAM area has been very relevant to Ukraine. The Russian aggression against Ukraine has brought about 1.7 million of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The detriment of families and people’s lives of Ukraine endures. Also, not only for the IDPs of Ukraine, but for the IDPs



in Georgia, Ukraine continuously urged all UN Member States to lend them a hand by fully supporting presented documents aiming for humanitarian goals. Furthermore, it has strongly showed full support for the draft resolutions related to this issue and for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

5) United Nations (General Assembly, Security Council)

As to solve the protracted conflicts of the GUAM area and to aim for the international peace, security and development, the United Nations has made various acts such as adopting resolutions regarding the conflicts of GUAM region and has established several work programmes. It has worked to ask the specialised agencies, components, organizations, programmes and funds of the UN system to collaborate and develop direct contacts with the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – island for the joint implementation of comes aimed toward the attainment of common objectives, and therein context takes note of the extant action of cooperation between the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – island and therefore the UN workplace on medication and Crime.

V. Possible Actions & Solutions

The solution to be considered is firstly member states signing ceasefire treaty, which is eventually needed for recovering the economy as well as living infrastructure within member states. In the long run, there is more gaining through peace than conflict; ultimate peace should be seriously considered regarding the diplomatic statuses of the nations. Negotiating and fine-tuning the ceasefire inside the nation to get back of the peace. Safe zones, and shelters have to be made. This can solve the current refugee problems. Humanitarian aids can be one of solutions, too. In order to keep the citizens' safety, cooperation among affiliated organizations is inevitable.

As an example of short-term action to be executed, temporary settlements could be built to receive refugees and displaced persons who have fled their home country. After providing shelters to the displaced people, actual rebuilding of homes seems inevitable for further development. Likewise, as development aid, schools should be rebuilt for providing education for the future generation.

Along with the protection of human rights within the occupied regions, property rights should also be protected by the governments.

VI. Definition of Key Terms

- 1) **GUAM-** Organization for Democracy and Economic Development. GUAM is an international regional organization which includes the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.
- 2) **IDP (Internally Displaced Persons)** – This term points to the people who were banished from its country, incapable of returning back to their homes.



- 3) **GUAM's democratic principles** - According to the GUAM's Charter, the main principles of the Organization are: promoting democratic values, ensuring rule of law and respect of human rights; ensuring sustainable development; strengthening international and regional security and stability; deepening European integration for the establishment of common security space, and expansion of cooperation in economic and humanitarian spheres; development of social and economic, transport, energy, scientific and technical, and humanitarian potential of the Parties; intensification of political interaction and practical cooperation in the fields of mutual interest.
- 4) **Protracted conflicts** – In the dictionary, meaning a long lasted conflict, on this agenda of the GA 1 it points to conflicts happening in the GUAM region. The conflict includes dispute that makes numerous IDPs and also about Russia's "peacekeeping" claims.

VII. Affiliated Document & Organizations

- 1) UN GA Resolution 70/265 Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia
This resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 June 2016, it has acknowledged the right of Internally Displaced Persons in Georgia, Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region to return back to their homes regardless of ethnicity. Also, the resolution urged the need of the humanitarian activities for all Internally Displaced Persons such as the guarantee of security conditions.
- 2) OSCE - GUAM Statement at 568th (Special) Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
This statement stated that the protracted conflict of the GUAM region should be resolved based on the norms and principles of the international law. Here, principles of the international law meaning all of those referring to territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of international borders, also includes UN Security Council resolutions and the OSCE decisions.

VIII. Critical Questions to Consider

- How can we strengthen the purpose and executing power of the GUAM organization?
- How can we reduce the fundamental factors of the conflict?
- What are the main causes triggering protracted problems within the GUAM region?
- How can we stop the conflict in GUAM region?
- Can the actions made by Russia justified?
- How can we make long-term stability in the region?
- What could be the realistic solution for the conflict?

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