



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE OSCE

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**STATEMENT**  
**by H.E. Ms. Natalia Gherman,**  
**Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the**  
**Republic of Moldova, at the opening of the Moldovan Chairmanship of the**  
**OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation**

753<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation  
7 May 2014

**Excellences,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure to be back in Vienna to address you on the occasion of the launch of the Moldovan Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation. For me it is a special feeling to be back at the FSC plenary meeting after representing my country for many years at the OSCE. Tomorrow, in my statement at the Permanent Council I will focus on foreign policy priorities and internal developments, including the European integration, but also the prospects of the Transnistrian conflict settlement process. As for today, I would like to focus on the key priorities of the Moldovan FSC Chairmanship for the upcoming four months.

Before doing that, I would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the previous Maltese Chairmanship and to Luxemburg, as an out-going FSC Troika member, for their excellent work in steering the activity of the Forum during their mandates. We have enjoyed a productive Troika co-operation and we are confident that the existing dynamics will be maintained in the following period as well. Furthermore, we would like to warmly welcome Monaco as a new member of the FSC Troika and to assure them of our constructive co-operation in the months ahead.

For more than 20 years, the Forum for Security Co-operation has provided a valuable and unique platform to the participating states to engage in deliberations on most challenging politico-military aspects of security in the OSCE area. The Organization has developed a complex set of documents and commitments that aim to strengthen peace and security in our region. Currently, the politico-military toolbox is seriously tested and it is up to us to show the relevance of the available instruments and mechanisms to deal with crisis situations.

As we take over the Chairmanship of the FSC, we remain committed to the implementation of the Tentative FSC Working Programme, agreed by Malta, Moldova and Monaco for the current year. This programme and our Indicative Schedule represent the Moldovan understanding of the work of the FSC this year. While developing our agenda, we have to maintain an adequate degree of flexibility in order to ensure that it generates discussions on the core issues related to the FSC work and at the same time addresses the key challenges to the security environment in Europe, such as the current crisis in and around Ukraine.

The Republic of Moldova joins others in applauding the international efforts in releasing the military observers under the Vienna Document, who were detained in Slavyansk. At the same time, we remain deeply concerned about the on-going tensions and further deterioration of the security situation in certain parts of Ukraine. We deeply regret the loss of human lives during the tragic events in Odessa on 2 May 2014. Allow me to express our sincere condolences to the people of Ukraine and to the families of the victims and wish a quick recovery for those injured.

The Republic of Moldova's Chairmanship of the FSC comes at one of the most difficult points in time for our Organization, which demands great responsibility. We are well aware of the complexity of tasks that lay ahead of us. Certainly, the current challenges to the European security posed by the crisis in and around Ukraine require a strong commitment from all of us to ensure the functionality of its basic principles, as well as transparency and predictability in military and security matters. Now, it is the appropriate time to show maximum political will to uphold existing OSCE commitments. Both as the Chair of the FSC and in our national capacity, we will engage with the participating States in exploring ways for the FSC to bring its contribution to deescalating tensions and facilitating the settlement of this crisis by using the available toolbox in the politico-military dimension. We would like to encourage all participating States to make full use, in letter and in spirit, of the existing Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building Measures to stabilize the situation, to re-establish trust and confidence in the region and to bring an end to the crisis, ensuring the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In the months ahead, the Moldovan Chairmanship of the FSC will aim to contribute to strengthening the existing commitments as well as improving the already rich normative framework of the FSC. We would like to encourage participating States to use this period to reflect and discuss on ways to update and modernize the Vienna Document 2011 in order to bring it in line with the current political and military realities. During the last Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in March 2014, a good exchange of views on ways to improve the implementation of the Confidence and Security Building Measures took place. The evolving security realities highlight the importance of using in good faith the CSBMs and step up the efforts aimed at modernizing this politico-military arrangement. There are many interesting proposals on the table to update the Vienna Document that deserve our careful review.

We hope that in the following weeks the consensus will be reached on the decision regarding the 2014 Annual Security Review Conference, which will provide a good opportunity to reflect on the current state of affairs, the existing challenges and prospects of the Confidence and Security Building Measures and arms control, including their role in preserving stability and security in the OSCE area.

The OSCE has established itself at the forefront of the regional co-operation on Small and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunitions (SCA), particularly in raising awareness and assisting participating States in the development and implementation of relevant legislation. The Republic of Moldova has developed a good record of co-operation with the OSCE in the field of SALW and SCA and has always supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the OSCE commitments in this area. In Kiev last year, we have managed to adopt the Ministerial Council decision 8/13 on SALW and SCA, which includes several tasks for the FSC for this year. One of them requires an active participation of the FSC at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its aspects. We will work closely with our two Coordinators, the participating States and the FSC Support Section to highlight our Organization's participation at this event.

Following up on the MC decision 8/13, we have prepared several Security Dialogues addressing ways to enhance multilateral co-operation in fighting illicit trafficking in SALW, including in the South-Eastern Europe. It is our belief that the participating States can also contribute to enhancing the common international standards for regulating international trade in conventional arms by playing a more active role in supporting the international momentum generated by the upcoming entering into force of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Another important landmark this year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The FSC has already adopted the specific decision on the agenda, timetable and modalities of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct to be held on 9 July 2014. This event will give us an opportunity to reflect on the implementation and to identify ways to better apply this document, particularly given the evolving security environment.

This year also marks ten years since the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. As you are well aware, last year the FSC adopted “*Updated OSCE principles governing non-proliferation*”, a document further endorsed by the Kiev Ministerial Council. In order to follow up on the agreed commitments and further raise awareness of this important Resolution, as well as to highlight the relevance of regional organizations, such as the OSCE, in contributing to the implementation of the Resolution, we intend to organize a thematic Security Dialogue with the participation of the Chair of the UN 1540 Committee.

In addition, we believe that the OSCE has a role to play and the potential to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security”. The increased efforts of the international commitments to fully recognize women’s efforts in peace and security have gained momentum not only on a global scale, but also on regional and national levels. In order to examine ways the OSCE may further promote the implementation of this Resolution, we are planning a Security Dialogue dedicated to this issue.

### **Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the Ministerial Councils in Dublin (2012) and in Kiev (2013), the FSC was invited to contribute to the Helsinki +40 process. Although this task may seem especially difficult now, we should not lose sight of our overall objective of moving towards a common security community. The FSC has the potential to make a significant contribution to the process and we will continue to undertake efforts in advancing towards this goal.

During our Chairmanship, we look forward to working closely with the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE Permanent Council in order to ensure a close synergy between the two independent decision-making institutions of the OSCE. Last week, we have already held a joint PC-FSC and we commend the good interaction established between the PC and FSC since the beginning of this year.

Acknowledging the importance of active engagement of the Partners for Cooperation in the work of the Forum, we look forward to continue the established tradition of interaction with them.

The Chairmanship of this Forum is a challenging task, but we will aim at acting as an honest broker and facilitator in promoting issues relevant to the FSC work.

In agreement with the FSC Troika and Conflict Prevention Center, I am pleased to reconfirm the mandates of the current FSC Chair’s Coordinators:

- Dr. Pierre-von-Arx – Coordinator of the FSC Chair for the Vienna Document;

- Lieutenant Colonel Detlef Hempel – FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;
- Ms. Bilge Kocyigit – FSC Co-ordinator on matter relating to UNSCR 1325;
- Lieutenant Colonel Mark Barlow – FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunitions;
- Mr. Raimonds Oskalns – FSC Chairperson’s Coordinator on Non-proliferation Issues;
- Major Magin Alvarez Arribas – Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small and Light Weapons; and,
- Mr. Robertas Rosinas – Chef de file of the FSC for the 2014 Annual Security Review Conference.

I would like to take this opportunity and to thank the Coordinators for volunteering to undertake these important tasks and to assist the FSC Chairmanship. Their rich expertise and experience are key ingredients for a successful FSC Chairmanship and we count on their continuous support. We also express our sincere appreciation to the Conflict Prevention Centre, in particular to the FSC Support Section, for their valuable assistance in preparing for our Chairmanship.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before concluding, let me underline that the Moldovan Chairmanship will ensure the inclusiveness and openness in the work of the FSC. Delegations are invited to actively engage in constructive discussions and express their views and approaches to addressing security matters in the OSCE area. As I have stated in the very beginning, we are going through challenging times and it is up to us to make the most of the existing politico-military tools in addressing the current urgent issues on the FSC agenda. Moreover, it is our strong belief that the only way to move closer to our overall goal of establishing a common security community is to manifest the necessary political will and to act in good faith, in a letter and in spirit of the relevant OSCE commitments.

**Thank you for your attention.**