

STATEMENT

of H.E. Mr. Andrei STRATAN, Deputy Prime-minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, at the Closing Session of the 15th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting (Madrid, 30 November 2007)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

While the Moldovan Delegation has aligned itself with the Statement delivered by Portugal on behalf of the European Union, I would like to stress a few points that my country consider it necessary to bring to the attention of the Ministerial Council.

We join other delegations in expressing our deep regret that still this Ministerial Council has made its share of disappointments. Once again the Council was not able to adopt the Ministerial Declaration and the Statement on Moldova. Despite the tireless efforts from the part of my Delegation and the most of the involved actors we failed for the fifth year in a row to reach consensus on these important documents. Because of the position of one state we couldn't agree on the step forward to inspire confidence and make progress in political settlement of the Transnistrian problem.

We remain determined to find a final political settlement based on full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. While the key present objective is to advance the political settlement process we call on all involved actors, particularly on the authorities of the Transnistrian region for the resumption, without any preconditions, of the negotiations in the "five plus two" format. The final goal of the negotiations should be the identification of the special legal status of the Transnistrian region on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

We consider it is the time for all involved actors to engage actively in the discussions on the transformation of the current peacekeeping operation into a multinational civilian mission under an international mandate. We regret the lack of progress in 2007 on the removal of the Russian forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova and recall the crucial importance of fulfillment of the commitments undertaken at the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit. We are convinced that the tangible progress in the implementation of the remaining Istanbul commitments will allow for any further advancement of the settlement process. We reiterate our position that the full, early and unconditional withdrawal of the military forces of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Moldova will provide the necessary ground for the ratification by our Parliament of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that the statement be attached to the Journal of the day.

