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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the opening statement of the FSC Chairmanship,
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration of
the Republic of Moldova
H.E. Natalia Gherman**

As for delivery by Ambassador
Ihor Prokopchuk
to the 753-d meeting of the FSC,
7 May 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine warmly welcomes the Republic of Moldova as the new Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We are grateful to H.E. Natalia Gherman, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration for her opening statement outlining tasks, priorities and activities within the FSC for the second trimester of 2014. Delegation of Ukraine thanks for your condolences to the people of Ukraine in connection with the tragic events in Odessa on 2 May 2014.

We wish every success to the Principality of Monaco as a new member of the FSC Troika and thank Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which is leaving the Troika for the dedication and tireless efforts in the past and this year.

We appreciate the excellent work done during the first trimester of 2014 by the Republic of Malta as FSC Chair and would like to convey our sincere gratitude for understanding and patience as our decision-making body started its active engagement in military aspects of the crisis in and around Ukraine stemming from the Russian Federation's unlawful military actions on the sovereign territory of Ukraine in Crimea, which subsequently led to illegal annexation of this integral part of Ukraine's territory. These actions by the Russian Federation are in breach of imperative norms of international law, the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and numerous OSCE commitments, bilateral and multilateral agreements, which guarantee Ukraine's territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and non-intervention in its internal affairs. Unfolding terrorist activities in Eastern Ukraine and unusual military activities of the Russian Federation close to the border with Ukraine were also under scrutiny during the Maltese FSC Chairmanship.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine and Republic of Moldova are neighboring countries which have close political, economic and humanitarian ties. We highly appreciate these good-neighborly relations, which are based on friendship, confidence and cooperation. In this context let me reiterate Ukraine's respect for the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova

within its internationally recognized boundaries. Throughout the Ukrainian CIO in OSCE in 2013 we spared no effort to maintain the high profile on the OSCE agenda of the negotiation process for the Transdniestrian settlement in the “5+2” format, which resulted in the adoption in Kyiv of the OSCE Ministerial Statement on the work of the Permanent Conference on political issues in the framework of the negotiation process for the Transdniestrian settlement in the “5+2” format. We reaffirm our strong support to achieve a comprehensive, just and viable resolution of the Transdniestrian conflict.

Mr. Chairman,

We have taken note and welcome Indicative Schedule for the Plenary meetings under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Moldova as reflected in the document FSC.INF/12/14.

The FSC Security dialogue “European Security Overview: challenges and future prospects”, planned for 14 May 2014 is of particular interest and significance for the whole OSCE community against the backdrop of dangerous actions of one participating State, aimed at unilateral change of the international boundaries by using its military forces and sponsoring criminal and terrorist groups in the neighboring country.

Ukraine is also interested to hear “Russia`s proposals to improve the effectiveness of control over illegal supplies of arms, promoted in multilateral formats”, which are planned for the discussion during the FSC Security Dialogue, planned for 11 June 2014. According to the information provided by Security Service of Ukraine terrorist groups, acting now in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine are armed with weapons, which are military issue in the Russian Armed Forces.

In light of the recent seizure by the Security Service of Ukraine of the radioactive material smuggled from the Transdniestrian region of the Republic of Moldova to adjacent oblast of Ukraine it seems pertinent to discuss during the Security Dialogue “UNSCR 1540: 10 year anniversary”, planned for 18 June 2014, how to prevent illegal transfers of the radioactive materials from such “grey zones”.

Other important topics proposed for the Security Dialogues related, for example, to various aspects of SALW non-proliferation are equally important to us. We also hope that the Third Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security will contribute to diplomatic achievements during the Moldovan FSC Chairmanship.

In conclusion let me assure you that Ukraine is ready to cooperate actively and constructively with the FSC Chairmanship, FSC Troika and Coordinators, delegations of the participating States with the view to achieve our common objectives.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.