



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Response to Russia's Disinformation about Moldova**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Timothy Hanway  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
June 6, 2024

As Moldova continues to make remarkable progress on its democratic reforms, it continues to grapple with Russia's provocations and ruthless war against neighboring Ukraine. Russia's vituperations at the May 23 Permanent Council only served to remind us of its dubious intentions.

As Secretary Blinken underscored during his visit to the country on May 29, we have seen extraordinary resilience from Moldova's leadership and its people in the "face of bullying from Russia, of interference, efforts to spread misinformation, disinformation, weaponizing corruption, (and) manufacturing anti-government protests." Further, noting Moldova's deep-rooted commitment to democracy and to Moldovans deciding their own future, the Secretary stressed the Biden Administration's "strong commitment... to Moldova's sovereignty and to Moldova's success."

The United States supports a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Transnistria conflict that respects Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and that fully guarantees the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people in Moldova. We support the OSCE Mission's efforts to facilitate talks between Chisinau and Tiraspol at the experts' and Chief Negotiators' level while the international format of the settlement process is inactive due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

We expect all sides to respect the role the Mission plays in Moldova, including exercising its full mandate to monitor and report on the situation in the Security Zone, as well as at the Cobasna munitions depot and along Moldova's border with Ukraine. We underscore the need for unfettered access to Moldova's Transnistrian region.

Regretfully, Russia still refuses to fulfill its 1999 Istanbul Summit pledge to withdraw its troops and ammunition from Moldova's sovereign territory. The ongoing stationing of Russia's troops in Moldova without Moldova's consent is a breach of international law.

We value the Mission's work to facilitate Moldova's settlement process and advance on its chosen democratic trajectory. We support a full one-year mandate extension for the Mission when the Permanent Council considers this matter in June.

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