



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT

by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council
4 June 2008

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova express our sincere gratitude to the OSCE for assisting the Ministry of Defence in the destruction of about 12,000 rounds of outdated or dangerous ammunition that was stored on its territory. We also would like to express our appreciation for the training on stockpile management and security of conventional ammunition organized by the OSCE with help of donors in September 2007 and the subsequent training sessions, also on ammunition stockpile management, arranged through the OSCE with the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States.

We hope that the fruitful co-operation will continue between the OSCE and the government of Moldova regarding safe and secure storage of conventional ammunition and destruction of outdated/surplus ammunition. As you are aware, the present condition of ammunition storage sites in Moldova does not meet the necessary safety requirements and thus presents a risk to the civilian population and servicemen residing in the proximity to the sites. The Ministry of Defence undertakes measures to provide temporary security to ammunition. However, due to limited expertise and financial resources, the Republic of Moldova is not able to ensure adequate storage of national holdings. In this context, we hope that the OSCE will consider positively our request from December 2006 regarding improving ammunition storage conditions.

In addition, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Republic of Moldova inherited 19 rockets R-60 as well as air bombs, including cluster bombs. As the Government has declared its intention to destroy all cluster bombs and has identified rockets surplus to its defence requirements, we would like to request OSCE assistance in ensuring safe and environmentally-friendly destruction of the above mentioned ammunition.

This delegation takes this opportunity to appeal to the international community to provide financial support to dispose of excess ammunition and improve storage conditions of ammunition in accordance with existing national procedures and OSCE best practices.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.