

**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Mrs. Natalia Gherman, Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova,  
at the 21'st meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council  
Basel, 4 December 2014**

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Dear colleagues

I would like to thank Swiss Chairmanship for hosting us in the hospitable town of Basel and for the efficient way it managed the work of our Organization throughout the year.

Mr. Chairman,

I believe there is a consensus in this room that the European security passes through one of its most serious crises. At its origin are the national interests promoted at the expense or even against the agreed international rules and principles. We are worried about this trend but there are no magic solutions. As the Swiss Chairmanship puts it – our security should become our *common project*. Settlement of any crisis requires urgent, robust and most importantly *joint* efforts. And these efforts should be focused on *preserving* the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and Charter for European Security. In this sense, we fully support the Helsinki +40 process, as well as welcome the Chairmanship's initiative regarding the Panel of Eminent Persons.

Mr Chairman,

*The conflict-resolution process in Ukraine* is facing serious difficulties and this is the moment when international crisis-diplomacy must not fail. We believe that at this stage all efforts should be directed to stop the military hostilities and create conditions for a comprehensive political dialogue on the basis of Minsk agreements. There is a crucial linkage between cease-fire and border-monitoring. In this sense, we welcome the role played by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and support expansion of the OSCE mandate in such areas as monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian border.

A lasting political settlement of the conflict in and around Ukraine should be based on the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in its internationally recognized borders. In the same context we consider the annexation of the Crimean peninsula as a flagrant breach of the international law.

Mr. Chairman,

While we are working on new crisis situations, the older security issues should not be forgotten. One of such challenges is the *Transnistrian conflict*. Let me outline key points of our approach.

*First of all*, our goal remains unchanged – we are looking to achieve a comprehensive political resolution, based on a sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, with a special status for the Transnistrian region, that fully guarantees the human, political, economic, and social rights of its population.

*Second* – the negative trends in the conflict resolution should be reversed. Long-term solutions should be found to such issues as functioning of the Latin-script schools in the Transnistrian region, free access of the Moldovan farmers to their agricultural lands and implementation of key provisions of the Moldova-EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area in the Transnistrian region.

*Third* - the settlement process clearly needs a reset. The negotiations in the 5+2 format should restore its role of the platform for political talks. This can be achieved by a renewed engagement by both sides as well as by an intensified joint work of the international mediators and observers.

*Fourth* - we remain concerned about the build up and increased role of the military factor in the entire region. In this respect we reiterate our longstanding position on the need to finalize the withdrawal of Russian military forces as well as ammunition stockpiles from Moldova. Transparent destruction of ammunition should also be examined. We also remind about the need to transform the current peacekeeping operation into a international civilian mission that would meet the real needs on the ground.

Mr Chairman,

The parliamentary elections that took place just a few days ago in my country demonstrated that the democratic reforms are supported by the Moldovan people. Now there is a clear mandate for us to continue the process of European integration which greatly facilitates and continues to represent the best framework for a sustainable and successful reintegration of the Republic of Moldova.

I thank you Mr. Chairman and I wish incoming Serbian Chairmanship every success.