



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT
by the Republic of Moldova in response to the report
of the Head of the OSCE Mission in Moldova
Ambassador Michael Scanlan
(1097th Permanent Council, April 21, 2016)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Michael Scanlan, Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, at the Permanent Council and thank him for a comprehensive and thought provoking report. His presence today is a very timely one as it comes just two weeks after the 3+2 visit in the Republic of Moldova what gives us a good opportunity to assess the current situation and possible ways to push forward the settlement process of the Transnistrian conflict.

We welcome revitalization of this important tool – the joint visit of mediators and observers – which can provide a constructive impetus to the negotiation process and facilitate progress in the conflict resolution. Few months ago in Belgrade, in a statement on the 5+2 talks, mediators and observers were called to redouble their co-ordinated efforts and to make full use of their potential to promote progress in achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transnistrian conflict. We look forward to continue engagement with mediators and observers as well as representatives from Tiraspol in order to reverse the existing trend into a more positive and dynamic one.

Regretfully, not much progress has been registered since the last report in October 2015. The official talks in the 5+2 format remain suspended due to unilateral and artificial pre-conditions set by representatives from Tiraspol. Let me remind that in April 2012 when principles and procedures of carrying out negotiations in the 5+2 format were agreed, participants committed to refrain from putting forward preliminary conditions. This practice is counter-productive and reduces the channels of communication. The 5+2, as the only viable format for resolving the conflict, should be specifically used to discuss and reach solutions on key issues of interest for parties.

We would also like to welcome active engagement of the Special Representative Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodt to hold a substantive 5+2 meeting in June this year. At the same time, we should aim at resuming a sustainable and future oriented process regardless of political developments in Chisinau and Tiraspol. When re-launching the 5+2 talks we should initiate a proper comprehensive discussion on all three baskets, including on political, institutional and security elements of the conflict resolution. We hope that the annual high-level confidence building measures conference in Bavaria will pave the way for advancing the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict. The Moldovan authorities at all levels remain committed to continue necessary efforts to achieve a viable political solution

based on the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with the special status of the Transnistrian region within the reintegrated country.

Mr Chairman,

Turning to the security issues, we attach utmost importance to monitoring the situation on the ground in the Transnistrian region and preventing possible tensions in the Security Zone. Restoring the unfettered access and re-establishing the patrolling tasks of the OSCE Mission to the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova is critical in providing objective monitoring and assessment of the situation on the ground. We welcome agreements on regaining access for the OSCE Joint Control Commission members; nevertheless we should think of bringing these arrangements at the official level in line with the existing documents regulating Mission's activities in the Security Zone and the Transnistrian region.

Speaking of the security situation, we should not diminish the attention from the military presence in the Transnistrian region. We remain concerned with the lack of progress in withdrawing the Russian military forces and the ammunition stockpiles from Cobasna, a commitment that remains unfulfilled by one participating states for almost 17 years. In the same vein, we believe that the current peacekeeping arrangement in the Transnistrian region is outdated and does not reflect the real needs on the ground. We stand ready to initiate transparent and substantive discussions with all involved stakeholders to transform the existing peacekeeping arrangement into a multinational civilian mission that instead of separating sides would rather bring closer the two banks of the Nistru river.

Mr Chairman,

Let me express our gratitude for the assistance and expertise provided by Mission to Moldovan authorities on issues related to human rights, rule of law and civil society, which is highly appreciated.

In particular, we highly value the assistance provided by the OSCE Mission in facilitating cooperation of the Moldovan authorities with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, including on developing a Strategy in this regard. Minority issues remain one of the priorities of the Moldovan Government.

Equally, we are grateful for the expertise provided by our international partners on strengthening the dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat, in particular by the OSCE Mission to Moldova. The Moldovan Government acknowledges the need to intensify the work towards improving channels of interaction at the both Legislative and Executive authorities level with the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia. The Moldovan Government will put the necessary efforts aimed at the social-economic development of the Gagauzia region, its financial support as well as increasing its investment attractiveness.

Before concluding, let me once again reaffirm that the OSCE Mission to Moldova remains a valuable partner for the Moldovan authorities. We wish HoM and his able team in Chisinau every success in their endeavors and are looking forward to continuing our good cooperation.

Thank you.