



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
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## STATEMENT

by Mr. Lilian Darii, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova  
at the Annual Security Review Conference 2016,  
Vienna, 29 June 2016

**Working Session II:** Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures: problems and prospects

Mr. Moderator,  
Dear Colleagues,

I join the previous delegations and thank our distinguished key note speakers for their comprehensive. While aligning to the European Union statement, I would like to make few remarks in my national capacity.

For the third consecutive year, the ASRC takes place against the backdrop of a major European security crisis, which makes our discussion on conventional arms control and Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) of particular relevance. My country attaches great importance to full implementation and modernization of the existing OSCE politico-military toolbox in line with the new risks and challenges that became even more visible in recent times. The continuing atmosphere of confrontation, polarization and increased tensions further undermines trust, military transparency and predictability in Europe. The Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs, as a cornerstone of European security architecture, can play a key role in rebuilding trust and restoring cooperative security in the OSCE area. But for this, it is important to implement in good faith the existing commitments and to constructively engage in a mutually respectful dialogue on modernizing these important arrangements.

The conventional arms control with its three pillars – the Vienna Document, the CFE Treaty and the Open Skies Treaty – remains a key element for ensuring stability and security on our continent. These arrangements have specific roles and should be treated as complementary to each other. While recognizing the valuable contributions of each arrangement, the politically binding commitments of the Vienna Document should not replace the legally binding provisions of the CFE Treaty.

The Republic of Moldova supports initiatives aimed at revitalizing the Vienna Document 2011, including by taking stock of the lessons learned from its application in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine. Over the last year, a number of good proposals were put forward by several delegations and they all move into the right direction – increasing trust, military transparency, and predictability. We stand ready to engage constructively in discussing all current and future proposals on improving the applicability of the Vienna Document 2011.

Mr. Moderator,

We remain concerned with the continuing impasse and full “suspension” of the CFE regime implementation by one State party. At the same time, we are committed to the implementation of the CFE Treaty and its related obligations. The Treaty has not lost its validity and is a key element of the European security. Our efforts should aim at preserving the elements of the Treaty that proved their efficiency and to update this regime, but not starting negotiations on a new arrangement from scratch. We look forward to the up-coming CFE Review Conference to discuss ways to modernize this important arrangement.

In addressing conventional arms control we should build on the fundamental OSCE principles, such as the comprehensive, indivisible and cooperative security but also to take into account the existing security and military environment in Europe. The principle of Host Nation Consent should also remain as a fundamental principle of any future conventional arms control regime. This is directly related to the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of State parties.

In this context, let me reiterate our concerns with the presence and increased military activities of the Russian armed forces on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Unfortunately, there is no reliable and verifiable data on the activities of the Russian forces due to the lack of access for international inspections to the Transnistrian region. However, even if we take as a reference the data published by the Russian Ministry of Defense and of the information agencies from the Transnistrian region, the number of military activities has significantly increased in the last two years. Hundreds of applications included military firing and involved the use of light weapons and combat vehicles. During these applications, we note the use of equipment which is not presented in any exchange of military information. In a number of applications and trainings, the paramilitary forces of the secessionist regime from Tiraspol have participated along with the forces of the Russian Federation.

This activity is even more worrying taking into account the sensitive regional security environment. Attempts to justify these applications by comparing them with the scales of trainings conducted in the OSCE area by other politico-military structures are not relevant. Let me stress, that the applications of the Operative Group of Forces in the Transnistrian region are conducted by illegal armed forces on a territory of another sovereign State without the agreement of the host country. The Republic of Moldova has advocated for more transparency and predictability with the regard to the activity of foreign troops and illegal paramilitary forces of the Transnistrian secessionist regime. At the same time, this requirement does not replace the need for withdrawal of foreign armed forces.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate our longstanding position and call on the Russian Federation to fulfill its commitments undertaken at Istanbul Summit to complete the withdrawal of its forces and military equipment from the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The presence of the so-called Operative Group of Russian Forces and the stockpiles of ammunitions in the Transnistrian region have no legal ground, lack the consent of the national authorities and are contrary to the principles of neutrality enshrined in the Moldovan Constitution.

Before concluding, let me underline once again the commitment of my country to remain engaged in moving forward to achieve our common goal of modernizing the conventional arms control and CSBMs.

Thank you