



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

**Statement  
by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova  
At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting  
18 July 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

The Moldovan Delegation has warned the Permanent Council before on the subversive plans of the transnistrian separatist regime to organize a so-called referendum in this region. On 12 July the transnistrian leaders unilaterally decided to call a referendum on 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2006.

In this respect, we would like to reaffirm that this decision is anti-constitutional as indeed is the very existence of the separatist regime in Tiraspol. Conducting a referendum in the secessionist region controlled by former KGB structures and foreign troops, and in the absence of democratic institutions makes a mockery of the notion of referendum. But this action also constitutes a defiance of the OSCE community because it forces us to witness the compromise of democratic principles.

The intention of the separatist administration to conduct such a referendum undermines the settlement process of this conflict and contravenes the final scope of negotiations, stipulated in the relevant documents, that is the establishment of a legal status of the transnistrian region within the Republic of Moldova. These actions aim for the preservation of the status quo of the separatist regime, thus hindering, the lasting settlement of the conflict. Moreover, these actions took place in the context of Tiraspol's continued refusal to come back to the negotiation talks during the last 5 months.

Mr. Chairman,

We underline again that this pseudo-referendum cannot be recognized under any circumstances. The Republic of Moldova will qualify any attempts to support, observe or recognize this illegal referendum as interference in its internal affairs.

We are deeply concerned by the fact that the separatist regime, as witnessed by its actions, envisages an OSCE member state that has the status of negotiator in the

transnistrian settlement process. The problem is aggravated by the fact that some circles in the Russian Federation encourage the transnistrian leaders behaviour on this issue. We call on the Russian Federation to take an official attitude with regard to this provocation.

We draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the risks and unforeseeable consequences of attempts to support directly or tacitly any manifestation of separatist phenomena in the Republic of Moldova or in any other state.

We call upon all OSCE participating states to condemn this anti-constitutional initiative of the transnistrian regime. We ask the key actors in the transnistrian problem settlement process to undertake concrete steps in order to resume the talks in the “5+2” format, which will enable us to concentrate on the principles issues for a lasting settlement – the democratisation and demilitarisation of the transnistrian region.

Mr. Chairman,

The Moldovan Delegation has informed with many occasions the Permanent Council on the illegal actions undertaken in the Security Zone by the transnistrian regime under the shield of the so-called peacekeeping operation. Regretfully, the illegal privatization and possession of the Moldovan institutions is continuing in this region. The most recent example is the undergoing process of alienation of the Hospital of Moldovan Rail Ways located in the town of Bender on the right bank of the Nistru River, in violation of the legislation of the Republic of Moldova. This property, amounting to 3 billions Moldovan Lei, represents an integral part of the “Moldovan Rail Ways” State Enterprise. In this regard, we reiterate our strong request to transform the existing peacekeeping operation into a genuine multinational mission with relevant international mandate, which should be produced by the end of 2006. Moldova is committed to cooperate with all partners in this regard without any delay.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we call on the Russian Federation to resume without delay the withdrawal of its armed forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova in fulfilling its relevant commitments undertaken at the OSCE Istanbul Summit of 1999.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman