



PERMANENT DELEGATION
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STATEMENT
by the Republic of Moldova on the situation in Ukraine
989th meeting of the Permanent Council
Vienna, March 13, 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the three distinguished guests for informing us on the results of their visit in Ukraine, including in the peninsula of Crimea and in particular for their assessment of the different aspects of the continuously escalating situation in this peninsula. There are so many causes for our deep concern and so many reasons to search common solutions.

In spite of the fact that for the last two weeks we have been intensely discussing in this forum the on-going crisis in Crimea, regretfully, we are still not close to being able to take joint actions to de-escalate the situation. This is particularly worrying due to rapidly deteriorating situation on the ground. Therefore, we reiterate our call for urgent practical steps in order to overcome the existing crisis, in a way that will preserve the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

We express once again our condemnation of the so-called “referendum on the status of Crimea”. This action is in clear violation of the Ukrainian legislation. It is not only illegal, but also illegitimate. Whatever the outcomes, they cannot be recognized. The conditions in which this “referendum” is taking place are very far from being democratic and do not meet any international standards. In this sense, we note breaches of public order, the atmosphere of intimidation, lack of plurality of views, censorship of media – all these taking place against the background of intense Russian military activities in Crimea. Holding of the so-called referendum will only generate more tensions and move us further away from reaching a viable solution. All international actors, but particularly, those with clear leverage in Crimea should use their full potential to discourage – and not stimulate or support – separatist movements and show in practical terms the commitment to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

We deeply deplore that the access of unarmed military observers of the OSCE participating states, in line with the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011, was denied on several occasions by unidentified, but clearly well trained, military personnel, thus preventing the observers from fulfilling their duties. We are also extremely worried that the security of the OSCE observers was put at risk. This brings us again to the idea expressed so many times in this room on the need to show political will in implementing our crisis preventive mechanisms, which are available in the political-military toolbox.

Under the current circumstances, with so many alarming reports coming from Crimea, there is an urgent need to get the OSCE monitors on the ground. They would provide us with independent, factual and objective findings and assist our efforts in reaching a peaceful solution to the current crisis. We reiterate our support for setting up and deploying without delay the OSCE monitoring mission in Ukraine, including in Crimea. As we noted yesterday, there is a strong and broad support for the Draft decision put forward in this respect by the Swiss Chairmanship. However, to move forward we need for all participating states, without a single exception, to engage quickly in meaningful and constructive discussions.

Thank you.