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STATEMENT

by Ambassador Valeriu Chiveri, Head of the Permanent Delegation, in response to the statement delivered by H.E. Leonid Kozhara, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine,
OSCE Chairman- in-Office
(OSCE Permanent Council, 17 January 2013)

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, on behalf of the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Moldova I would like to warmly welcome His Excellency Minister Leonid Kozhara and thank him for the presentation of the Ukraine Chairmanship priorities. This Delegation has aligned with the EU statement but I would also like to make a few points in our national capacity.

Next Monday, Minister Kozhara will start his first visit to the Republic of Moldova. This visit provides a good opportunity to re-energize the Transnistrian conflict settlement process and to bring to a new level the bilateral co-operation between our countries.

We welcome the readiness of the Ukrainian Chairmanship to pay a priority attention to the settlement of protracted conflicts, in particular to the Transnistrian settlement process. Ukraine has been playing a significant role as a mediator in the negotiation process and brought a substantive contribution since the official talks had been resumed.

Mr Chairperson,

At the Dublin ministerial meeting the participating States have adopted the statement on the 5+2 negotiations which sets clearly the main political goal of the process – *a negotiated, comprehensive, just and viable resolution of the Transdnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for Transdnistria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population*. This document lays a solid ground and provides the Ukrainian Chairmanship with the key areas for action.

In 2012 we agreed on a clear regulatory framework and a comprehensive agenda for 5+2 negotiations. We started discussing a range of practical issues. To move the process forward we need redoubled energy and coordinated support from mediators and observers as well as fresh and constructive ideas on the table. To prove that the 5+2 format is a platform of genuine political negotiations, it should shift its focus from discussing technicalities to working out basic principles and parameters of the solutions. All three baskets of the agenda should be open for negotiations. We are ready to discuss proposals aimed at bringing Chisinau and Tiraspol closer to each other, such as reestablishing the single economic space on both banks of Nistru River. In fulfilling these ambitious tasks we continue to rely on the assistance from the OSCE – both the Chairmanship and the Mission to Moldova.

Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), meant to resolve certain practical problems of the local population and ensure freedom of movement for people, goods and services, represent an important element of the settlement process. At the same time, we should be very clear about CBMs – their implementation cannot be seen as a precondition for starting discussion on the political issues. Many practical problems cannot be resolved without achieving clarity on political settlement. The promoting of the CBMs and the advancing on the political track should be taken as two parallel and mutually reinforcing processes.

We should not be avoiding discussions on sensitive topics such as the situation in the Security Zone and the transformation of the current peacekeeping arrangement into a multinational civilian mission with a relevant international mandate. I would also like to reiterate our longstanding call to fulfill relevant international commitments and finalize the withdrawal of Russian military forces which are stationing on the territory of Moldova without host nation consent.

In conclusion, I let me wish Minister Kozhara and his team in Kiev and here in Vienna every success in their future endeavors.