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PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE OSCE

**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the 85th special Joint Meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for
Security Cooperation on 18 February 2022**

Excellencies,

While aligning with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, our Delegation wants to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

We would like to thank the OSCE and FSC Chairmanships for organizing today's meeting which we hope will be followed by practical actions towards the de-escalation of the atmosphere of uncertainty and untrust.

The Moldovan authorities are seriously concerned with the continuing military movements close to the Ukrainian border. The already-tensed security environment is being worsened by the deterioration and renewed shelling on the line of contact. In these circumstances risk of military incidents is getting higher. It is important to show restraint.

During this period of maximum tensions at regional level, the withdrawal of Russian forces from the border with Ukraine is a necessary step. We would be happy to acknowledge that the real situation on the ground around Ukraine would be in line with the statements regarding ongoing withdrawal of forces to peacetime locations but so far these statements have not been sufficient to ensure de-escalation.

On a more general note – we believe that the current crisis cannot have a military solution. The use of force but also the threat of the use of force are serious violations of international law and can have consequences.

This is the time to show that instruments of military transparency and predictability can really work. It is also true, they are not in good shape, and therefore the OSCE is the right platform to discuss not only the pressing issues related to the security in Europe but also options to improve the application of Vienna Document as one of the pillars of CSBMs.

We support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and call for the settlement process to be in line with political solutions.

We call on Russian Federation to engage in discussions initiated on the basis of Vienna Document which will provide a clear signal of the interest in peace and stability in the region.

As mentioned during the High-level inauguration meeting of the Renewed OSCE European Security Dialogue from 8 February 2022 by many participating States, the principles on which our organization is based should be upheld and respected, not reviewed or interpreted.

Thank you.