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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 908th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 April 2012

**Regarding the latest “5+2” meeting**

Mr. Chairperson,

We consider that the meeting held here in Vienna on 17 and 18 April was a useful one. The negotiators representing the Moldovan and Transdniestrian parties, meeting in an official round of negotiations, took a genuine step forward towards a sustainable, workable and just political resolution of the Transdniestrian problem. Agreement was reached on the Principles and Procedures to govern the negotiating process and also on the structure of the agenda for official negotiations.

We would note in particular the understanding reached at the meeting on a fundamentally important aspect, namely the fact that the “Principles and Procedures” lay down what is an essential condition in any negotiations, namely the equality of the parties, in this case the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria, in the negotiating process.

As regards the actual items to be included in the agenda of future official negotiations, here the responsibility lies primarily with Chisinau and Tiraspol.

As a mediator in the negotiation process and a guarantor country for the settlement, the Russian Federation is prepared to continue to do all it can to promote progress towards a resolution of the Transdniestrian problem.

Our position remains unchanged, based as it is on our consistent recognition of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, while respecting the principle of neutrality enshrined in its Constitution. It is precisely on this basis that we are in favour of agreeing a long-term, mutually acceptable political resolution that will ensure the guaranteed special status of Transdniestria within the Moldovan State.

We should like to associate ourselves with the words of gratitude expressed by our colleagues to the Irish Chairmanship for organizing this “5+2” meeting. Independently of that, I should also like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria for the hospitality it has shown.

Thank you for your attention.