



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT
by the Republic of Moldova
at the 988th special meeting of the Permanent Council on the situation in Ukraine
Vienna, March 7, 2014

Madam Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova follows with the most serious concern the developments in Ukraine. We are particularly troubled by the increasing separatist trends in Crimea. The stability and peace in Ukraine is of utmost importance for the regional and overall European security architecture.

We reiterate our position on the need to engage immediately and without preconditions in a constructive dialogue to find a peaceful solution to the current crisis around Crimea that will ensure the full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. In this regard, all international actors should show, in a clear and practical way, their determination to respect the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, Helsinki Final Act as well as the bilateral and international multilateral commitments in relation to Ukraine.

Any actions, initiatives or legislative proposals, aiming at undermining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity can only lead to escalation of the tensions. This is why, we condemn the recent decision by the regional administration of Crimea to hold, in violation of Ukrainian legislation, a so-called referendum on the region's status and joining another participating state. The international partners with potential to bring a change in the region should increase their efforts on discouraging any separatist movements within Ukraine.

We welcome the recent visit of the Personal Envoy of the OSCE Chairmanship Tim Guldiman, HCNM Astrid Thors and the Special Representative for the Freedom of Media Dunja Mijatovic to Ukraine, including the Crimean peninsula. While welcoming the conclusion that the situation is relatively calm in the peninsula, we remain concerned with the assessment that the risk for increased tensions remains high.

This is another proof that an international presence on the ground is absolutely necessary and urgent. We reiterate our support for setting up and deploying as soon as possible of an OSCE international monitoring mission to Ukraine, including Crimea. We commend the OSCE Swiss Chairmanship for putting forward the Draft Decision on the Deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine which is a good and balanced basis for reaching a solid compromise decision in the coming days.

Thank you.