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PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE OSCE

Statement By the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting 19 April 2007

Mr. Chairman,

The Moldovan authorities welcomes the meeting of co-mediators and observers on the transnistrian settlement, which took place on 20^{th} of March 2007 in Vienna and take note of the statement issued in this regard.

In the last period, the Moldovan Authorities, together with mediators and observers in the transnistrian conflict settlement process, undertook a common efforts aiming at resuming the negotiations in the "5+2" format. It is regrettable that previous tentative to convene such a meeting failed because of obstructionist position of leaders in Tiraspol, which had ignored the invitations addressed to them in this sense. We express our hope that the representatives of the transnistrian regime will follow the last invitation launched by our partners to organize a meeting in the 5+2 format till the end of this mount.

At the same time, we would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the actions undertaken recently by the separatist regime directed to create tensions in the Security Zone and its immediate proximity. Thus, on 27 March 2007 the transnistrian forces organized in this area the military exercises, involving also special troops and using diverse types of armaments. These so-called "exercises" were conducted in a provocative scenario according to which Chishinau has been launched attacks on Tiraspol. No wonder that the so-called peacekeeping mechanism were informed about these actions post-factum and were, as usually, unable to effectively control the situation in the Security Zone, especially the activity of military units belonging to the separatist regime in Tiraspol. This fact proves once again the need for urgent transformation of the current peacekeeping operation into a genuine multinational mission with relevant international mandate.

Another source of tension was created by the separatist forces on 12 April, when socalled militia from the city of Dubasari forced the lyceum "Mihai Eminescu" in the village of Corjova, under control of the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova. This group, headed by the chief of so-called militia in Dubasari, abusively retained the Moldovan policemen being in duty in the lyceums building and transferred him to Dubasari. Just the operative intervention by the OSCE Mission in Moldova and the military observers determined liberation of policemen.

Mr. Chairman,

The obstacles for access of the OSCE Mission members in the transnistrian region raised by the separatist regime in Tiraspol concern the Moldovan Authorities. Since the last February in the region took place already 10 incidents of un-motivated retention or even blockage at the illegal control posts of the Mission's members.

Despite these circumstances, we are continuing our efforts in the view of re-launching the negotiations in the "5+2" format. We call upon Tiraspol to abstain from any provocative actions, to contribute for establishing the atmosphere of confidence and to return without preconditions to the negotiations table.

Thank you.