

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 957th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 June 2013

**Regarding the Transdniestrian settlement**

Mr. Chairperson,

We support the appeal by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Leonid Kozhara, to both sides to make full use of the mechanisms for official negotiation in the “5+2” format and for direct dialogue in the interests of open discussion of all unresolved problems, including the right to freedom of movement.

It should be noted that the decision by Chişinău in April to create six checkpoints along the administrative border with Transnistria gives rise to a number of questions on our part. What, for example, does this imply for the around 300,000 citizens of the Russian Federation and Ukraine living permanently in Transnistria? We are attentively studying the decision by Tiraspol to adopt a law regarding the State border and shall ask the Transnistrian authorities about this accordingly.

We welcome the firm conviction expressed in the Declaration of the Moldovan Parliament of 21 June that “settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict must be achieved exclusively by political and peaceful means in compliance with democratic principles and values and with account taken of the rights and fundamental freedoms of the people living on both banks of the Dniester.”

We regard the negotiation process in the “5+2” format as the best and only way of achieving a settlement. We regret to note the tailing off of the positive dynamism in this process. Nevertheless, recent practice confirms that the laborious work of building confidence between the two banks of the Dniester and the concentration at this stage above all on the problems connected with the daily life of normal people are bearing fruit. This is demonstrated by the progress, modest though it might be, in several of the recent rounds of talks in the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement.

An explicit model for resolving the Transdniestrian problem still has to be found by the parties to the conflict themselves on the basis of the norms and principles of international

law. We support the appeal by the Chairperson-in-Office to both sides to refrain from unilateral steps, which could undermine confidence and have a negative impact on the atmosphere of the negotiations.

We hope that the forthcoming round of negotiations in the “5+2” format in Vienna in July will be constructive and produce real results. We are willing to assist by co-ordinating our activities with all participants in this format, particularly the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship, with a view to moving the negotiation process forward.

We should like to emphasize once again that Russia will continue to participate actively in the search for a sustainable, viable and fair political solution to the Transdniestrian problem on the basis of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and neutrality of the Republic of Moldova while defining the special status of Transdniestria.

Thank you for your attention.