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Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement in response to the Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova Ambassador Kelly Keiderling

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna, to the 1398st meeting of the Permanent Council, 10 November 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the statement delivered under this agenda item by the Delegation of the European Union. At the same time, I would also like to add some remarks in the national capacity.

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes Ambassador Kelly Keiderling to the Permanent Council and congratulates her on the appointment as the Head of the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova.

Ambassador, we thank you for your report and wish all the best on this important position, which you have taken in a very challenging time for the whole OSCE region.

We also assure you of our readiness for fruitful cooperation.

Dear Colleagues,

The devastating spillover effect of the russian war of aggression against Ukraine continues to stipulate unprecedented threats to security within the whole area of OSCE's responsibility.

The Republic of Moldova, our good neighbour, is among those, who faces these negative outcomes at first hand.

In result of russian massive terrorist missile attacks on the Ukrainian energy infrastructure sites, in October the Republic of Moldova suffered from the suspension of electricity exports from my country.

Despite mentioned in the report challenges, stemming from the breakdown of supply chains and inflation for food, other goods and services, Chisinau and Moldovan people in general have been continuously providing shelter to hundreds of thousands of refugees from Ukraine.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank again the Republic of Moldova for this valuable support.

On 31 October parts of a missile fell at the outskirts of the Moldovan village of Naslavcha, near the border with Ukraine, causing damage to a number of private households.

The incident, which followed previous cases when russia fired drones and missiles over Moldova into Ukraine, in fact marks a new dimension of mentioned dangerous spillover effect of the russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Having finally shown its aggressive face of a terrorist state after years of covering it under hybrid masks, moscow, inter alia, has fully undermined the work of the 5+2 negotiation format, leaving Chisinau and Tiraspol with the only option available for now – direct talks.

During the current challenging time these talks are even more important than before and we appreciate relevant Mission's support and facilitation.

russia has fully discredited its own role as a guarantor of compliance with the reached agreements and as a mediator in the settlement of the conflict due to its brutal aggression against another guarantor and mediator – Ukraine.

This destructive factor needs to be taken into account when developing further approaches to resolving the Transdniestrian conflict.

In these conditions maintaining stability in the Transdniestrian region of the Republic of Moldova and preventing it from being potentially drawn into the russian war against Ukraine are the issues of primary importance.

The participating States should exert additional pressure on russia to provide the OSCE Mission to Moldova with the possibility to monitor and report on the situation at the munition depot in Cobasna.

The moscow regime also has to withdraw its forces and munitions from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Moldova as it recommitted to do at the 1999 Istanbul Summit and as it was requested by Chisinau itself on numerous occasions. But for sure, aggressive russia, in its attempt to influence its neighbours via threat of use of military force, will never resort to relevant constructive steps without proper incentives. These incentives should be provided in a form of a consolidated position of the international community complemented by practical political and economic steps of influence.

In terms of finding peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Transdniestrian conflict, Ukraine has always been and will continue to be standing firmly on its position, based on full respect to sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transdniestria within Moldova.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.