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**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT

On the 5+2 Talks in Odessa and the situation in the Security Zone in Moldova
954th Permanent Council
30 May 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank those Delegations who have been addressed the issue of the Transnistrian conflict settlement. At the outset, on behalf of the Moldovan authorities we would like to express our appreciation to the Ukrainian Chairmanship for the consistent efforts undertaken in promoting the negotiation process.

On the recent 5+2 negotiation I would like to point out that the Odessa round has shown that the process is going through a rather difficult period. Let me present the key-points regarding this meeting.

We had principled contradictions on the agenda of the meeting. The approach of the Moldovan delegation was based on the following principles:

First, the participants should strictly follow the existing regulatory framework, namely the principles and procedures of the 5+2 negotiations agreed in April 2012, which allows each side to bring up topical issues related to the settlement process.

Second, we need to avoid creating new practices, not stipulated in the rules of procedure, which increase the risk of a deadlock, such as, for example, approving a final consensual agenda at each 5+2 round.

Mr Chairperson,

Given the existing tensions in the Security Zone, the Moldovan delegation proposed to discuss this issue at the 5+2 meeting, as it was done in 2005 and 2006. We have

presented a number of legal, political and procedural arguments, but due to a categorical refusal from the Transnistrian and Russian delegations we were not able to raise those issues. Later, we agreed with the Transnistrian representative to talk about Security Zone in a separate format, but our arguments regarding bringing this issue to the 5+2 remain valid. Let me stress that if our interlocutors from Tiraspol truly want to achieve progress in resolving issues that are affecting lives of people in the region, they should demonstrate a more flexible and positive approach towards negotiations and refrain from applying tactics, which could bring the whole negotiation process into impasse. Threats to leave the negotiation table are not consistent with the principle of constructive negotiations stipulated in the rules of procedure of the 5+2 format. Such an approach we would expect from a mediator.

Nevertheless, we welcome the approval of the protocol decision on dismantling of the cable car over Nistru River between towns of Rîbnița and Rezina. According to this decision, the Chairmanship plays the key-role in identifying financial and technological resources needed for dismantling of the cable-car. We believe that the approval of the protocol decision was a sign of pragmatic and depoliticized approach which needs to be encouraged.

Apart of the cable-car protocol, discussions were focused on a number of other items related to freedom of movement, transportation, withdrawal of radioactive waste and others. No particular progress was registered.

Coming back to the issues of principled importance, let me fully share the points made by EU Delegation regarding the need to redirect the focus in the 5+2 format from technical to political aspects of the conflict settlement. In fact, we are speaking about this since the last year, when we observed the trend to avoid the political issues. Without any prejudice to ecology, we believe that the status of the Transnistrian region is a much more important question than fishing in the Nistru River, which was proposed to be discussed by Tiraspol. In the same context, security is part of the comprehensive agenda of the negotiations, namely the so-called “third basket”. We firmly believe that the discussion on security aspects should also be started and we call on all participants in the 5+2 to come with proposals in this regard.

Speaking about security, I would like to inform the Permanent Council that the chief-negotiators from Chisinau and Tiraspol met on Tuesday at the OSCE premises to talk about interaction between law-enforcement bodies. The situation in the Security Zone was also discussed. Sides agreed to convene in the near future the meeting of the Working Group on the law-enforcement interaction and combating criminality. There are some relevant proposals from the OSCE that we consider could serve as a basis for dialogue. Chief-negotiators have also expressed mutual understanding on the need to improve dialogue within the Joint Control Commission. We hope it will help us to resolve some recently appeared issues related to movement of the forces within the Security Zone. In this context, our idea to conduct an independent audit of the situation in the Security Zone, which would allow assessing how the relevant arrangements and decisions are respected in this area, becomes even more relevant.

Thanks you.