

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1104th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 June 2016

**Regarding the outcomes of the meeting in Berlin in the
“5+2” format on the Transdniestrian settlement**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the holding of a meeting of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format in Berlin on 2 and 3 June. We agree with the German OSCE Chairmanship on the importance in itself of resuming official talks after a two-year suspension. In that connection, we note the enterprising and consistent efforts by Berlin to encourage the parties to come to this decision on the basis of proposals by the Russian delegation for the resumption of regular work in the “5+2” format.

We hope that this meeting will bolster the negotiating process and will give a solid and productive stimulus to the dialogue between the parties. In that context, we welcome the agreement by the representatives of Chişinău and Tiraspol to hold another meeting during the traditional Bavaria Conference on Confidence-Building Measures in the Transdniestrian Settlement to be held on the initiative of Germany in early July.

We note the businesslike and pragmatic attitude of the meeting participants, which made possible not only an open exchange of views on a wide range of questions on the Transdniestrian settlement agenda but also the drawing up of a protocol by the participants containing a list of specific agreements for dealing with the problems facing the populations on both banks of the Dniester.

A significant result was the commitment by the political representatives of Chişinău and Tiraspol to discuss all problems at the negotiating table in the “5+2” format and their willingness to continue bilateral dialogue at the political level and within expert groups. Among other things, this attitude entails a renunciation by Moldova and Transdniestria of unilateral approaches likely to complicate negotiations on a Transdniestrian settlement.

In that context, the official documentation of the intention of the parties to seek a compromise to resolve the problem of prosecuting politically motivated criminal acts and in

particular the agreement to exchange updated lists of current criminal cases was an important achievement in Berlin. We trust that this work will help to build trust between Chişinău and Tiraspol.

In our view, the confirmation by the parties of their intention to improve the mechanism for implementing agreements and to draft a corresponding document with guarantees for their implementation is of fundamental importance as a means of making the negotiating process more coherent and productive.

We note the willingness of the parties to continue intensive work before the Bavaria Conference in July on the resolution of the specific problems of apostilization of diplomas issued in Transdnistria, the use of vehicles with number plates issued in Transdnistria in international road traffic, the issue of telecommunications and the agreement to draw up and sign protocols by 15 June regarding co-operation in the area of meteorology and protection of natural resources in the Dniester River basin.

We trust that these socially significant questions can be resolved in the designated time-frame. We are convinced that this will create a good basis for continuing the negotiating process on a Transdnistrian settlement.

As a mediator and guarantor State for a settlement, Russia confirms that the approaches to peaceful resolution of the conflict in Transdnistria remain unchanged. We are convinced that responsibility for achieving mutually acceptable agreements lies above all with the parties to the conflict themselves. We remain willing to assist in this in close co-ordination with the OSCE Chairmanship and other participants in the "5+2" process with a view to advancing the negotiations to find a sustainable, equitable and comprehensive settlement of the Transdnistrian problem.

Thank you for your attention.