

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

delivered by H.E. Mr. Andrei STRATAN,
the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
at the 12th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting
(Sofia, 6-7 December, 2004)

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to join other speakers in expressing our gratitude to the Bulgarian Chairmanship for the excellent working conditions, but also for maintaining the Republic of Moldova on the agenda of our Organization. I hope not to be wrong in affirming that our common feeling of satisfaction would have been greater if we had succeeded to register some progresses in the settlement of the security issues my country is dealing with.

I want to underline that the Republic of Moldova is deeply interested in reforming the Organization and wishes the initiated reform to lead towards the consolidation and enhancement of its role in international affairs.

In this context, the principle of consensus in the decision-making process has to be approached. The Republic of

Moldova considers that whether the consensus has to be preserved depends on the will of all member states to unconditionally respect the norms and principles of the international law, as well as the international commitments they assumed. The refusal of Russia to accept the reflection in the Organization's key documents of the deliberate and absolutely unwarranted non-compliance with the commitments on the Republic of Moldova assumed at the 1999 Istanbul OSCE Summit casts a negative light on the whole Organization. Or, there is only one step from the sublime to the ridiculous. The presence of Russian troops on the territory of the Republic of Moldova is against the political will of Moldovan constitutional authorities and defies the unanimously recognized international norms and principles, being qualified by Moldovan authorities as a foreign military occupation illegally deployed on the territory of the state. There is no legitimacy in the arguments invoked for justifying the tergiversation for more than two years of the withdrawal of troops and ammunition process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe it is impossible to deny that the Russian military presence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova represents a factor that puts pressure on the transnistrian issue settlement process and manipulates the criminal transnistrian leaders. There is no valid argument that would vindicate the synchronization of the withdrawal process with the settlement of the transnistrian issue. There is no plausible argument for

the perpetuation of the Russian military presence on the territory of the country and flagrant violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms encouraged by the transnistrian separatist regime supported by the same Russian military presence and economic groups from Russia and Ukraine, discommended by the entire Moldovan civil society.

I reiterate the absolute necessity that the participating states once again urge the Russian Federation to complete without delay and in a transparent manner the withdrawal and evacuation process. The full implementation of the Istanbul commitments on Moldova and Georgia must remain a prerequisite for the ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty. This language corresponds to the generally accepted principles of international law and the Republic of Moldova will support its inclusion in the text of the Sofia Political Declaration.

The role played by Russian troops in the recent crisis situations created in the districts situated on the left bank of Nistru river, in the Security Zone and at the border between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, proves eloquently that these forces do not contribute to the reintegration of country, but on the contrary consolidate the separatist regime.

I do consider that the lack of progresses in the negotiation process aimed at the settlement of the transnistrian issue is caused first of all by the fact that even the mediators do not have a common vision on the ways for the settlement, according to the principles of international law.

In the context of the measures that have to be taken in order to irrevocably subsume the whole process of the settlement of the transnistrian issue to the principles of international law, the acceptance and implementation of the UN/OSCE standards in the peacekeeping field, as well as the deployment of an international monitoring mission at the moldo-ukrainian border become imperative. We will be grateful to the EU for the contribution it will bring in this regard by ensuring the synergy between the data exchange system and the border monitoring mission. I am convinced that such cooperation under the aegis of OSCE will have a favorable political and economic effect on both countries and on the security of the region and the whole OSCE area.

Mr. Chairman,

The Declaration on the Stability and Security for the Republic of Moldova launched by the President of my country is aimed at ensuring consensus among the Parties concerned in order to guarantee the development of an independent, sovereign and integral Moldovan State, and implicitly the stability and security throughout Europe. The Declaration was proposed to be signed by all international actors that declared themselves on different occasions supporters of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and in particular of the transnistrian issue's settlement. We are convinced that the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the country cannot bear any negotiations and consider necessary that all interested international actors reconfirm that

the districts from the left bank of Nistru river are an integral part of the Republic of Moldova. Only the status of these districts within the Republic of Moldova is to be negotiated.

We express our gratitude to the USA, EU, its candidate and associated states for their constant support given to the Declaration on the Stability and Security for the Republic of Moldova, whose signing will determine the general framework and criteria for overcoming a number of challenges Moldova is dealing with, including the transnistrian issue, and in the end will constitute an important political signal of the efforts to increase the OSCE's efficiency.

The Republic of Moldova considers that its position fully corresponds to the principles and norms of the international

law and is to contribute to the consolidation of the stability and security in the OSCE area. The Republic of Moldova reiterates its commitment to cooperate to persevere with reforming the Organization in order to increase its efficiency and authority by ensuring the fulfillment of the decisions and commitments assumed within its framework.

Last but not least I would like to congratulate Slovenia on the occasion of taking over the OSCE Chairmanship and to wish it every success in achieving the proposed priorities and objectives hoping that the identification of a solution for the transnistrian issue will be one of the performances it will obtain next year.

Thank you for the attention.