



PERMANENT DELEGATION
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STATEMENT

by Mr. Lilian Darii, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova
at the Annual Security Review Conference 2016,
Vienna, 28 June 2016

Special Session: Ensuring security and stability in the OSCE region in light of developments with respect to Ukraine.

Mr. Moderator,
Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to join the previous delegations in warmly welcoming and thanking our keynote speakers for their interesting and very insightful presentations. We are looking forward to open and productive discussions on ways to strengthen the OSCE's contribution in advancing the settlement process of the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

The crisis in and around Ukraine has been dominating the agenda of the OSCE for the last two and half years. Without doubt, this is one of the most serious challenges in Europe that undermines the founding principles of security and stability in the OSCE area. The Republic of Moldova remains concerned with the deteriorating security and human rights situations in Eastern Ukraine as well as the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. It is regretful that despite agreements reached in Minsk, the cease-fire violations are registered on a regular basis. We agree that the key to the resolution of the crisis is full and unconditional implementation of the Minsk agreements and restoring the respect of the OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

As a neighbouring and friendly country, the Republic of Moldova is even more preoccupied with the on-going crisis in and around Ukraine, taking into account that it further undermines the security environment in our region, which is already very vulnerable in light of the existing Transnistrian conflict. For this reasons, we are very much interested in fostering efforts to resolve the crisis and avoid a new protracted conflict in Europe.

Since the very beginning of the crisis, the Republic of Moldova has been supporting diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful solution of the crisis in and around Ukraine that would preserve the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country. In this sense, we reiterate our position on condemning and not recognizing the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

Mr. Chair,

The OSCE's engagement in the resolution of the Ukrainian crisis has demonstrated the valuable role of our Organization in the European security architecture. We highly appreciate the OSCE's political mediation and contribution in decreasing tensions on the ground and advancing the political settlement of the conflict. Herewith, we underline the need to strengthen the capacities of the OSCE in addressing the Ukrainian crisis as well as future security challenges in the OSCE area. In this regard, we should give adequate attention to the new initiative of the Ukrainian authorities regarding an eventual police mission in Eastern part of Ukraine.

Impartial and fact-based reporting on the real situation remains extremely needed during the crisis. Let me reiterate our strong support for Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and emphasize the importance of ensuring full and unhindered access of the Mission throughout the entire territory of Ukraine. I am glad to note that my country has been providing 26 qualified persons to the SMM, including a woman team leader in the region of Donetsk. Equally, we support the activity of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk with my country providing 3 monitors to this mission. While commending the activity of these institutions, we are seriously concerned with the increasing numbers of aggressive acts, threats and intimidations against the SMM, its observers and UAVs. We condemn in strongest terms these acts and call for those responsible to be held to account.

We also express our appreciation for the activity of the Trilateral Contact Group and thank Ambassador Sajdik for his tireless efforts to advance dialogue in the political, security, humanitarian and economic working groups. Reaching an agreement on the modalities of local elections in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions is of utmost importance. We concur with the assessment that these elections should be conducted in accordance with the Ukrainian legislation, OSCE standards and monitored by ODIHR.

The OSCE has the necessary crisis response toolbox, which can assist our efforts in resolving the crisis in and around Ukraine. But, in order to be successful, political will is needed to recommit and restore respect for the existing norms, principles and commitments.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairperson, I would like once again to thank our distinguished speakers and to wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Thank you.