



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

PC.DEL/740/14
26 June 2014

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

by Mr. Valeriu Chiveri, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova
at the Annual Security Review Conference 2014
Vienna, 25 June 2014

Working Session II: Arms control and confidence- and security-building measures: Challenges and opportunities

Mr. Moderator,
Dear Colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to join the previous delegations and to thank our distinguished key note speakers, Ambassador Alyson Bailes and Col. Wolfgang Richter for their insightful and interesting presentations. We hope that today's discussions will help us to thoroughly assess the existing challenges and to identify ways to overcome the long lasting impasse in conventional arms control and Confidence and Security Building Measures.

While aligning to the European Union statement, we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity. For obvious reasons, the current impasse in the conventional arms control is a matter of serious concern not only for my country, but also for many other participating States. The recent developments in the European security architecture, particularly, the continuing crisis in and around Ukraine, proves the need of having in place a modern, functional and effective conventional arms control regime, which is an indispensable element of indivisible and co-operative security that the OSCE stands for. In Astana, we committed to revitalise, update and modernize the conventional arms control and Confidence and Security Building Measures regimes. Yet, little progress has been achieved. The Republic of Moldova has been actively supporting these efforts, but we have to note with concern attempts to limit this exercise only to modernizing and upgrading the implementation aspects of the Vienna Document. At the same time we should consider ways to move from a period of reflection to substantive discussions on ways to ensure that the conventional arms control is updated in line with the current political and military realities in Europe.

Modernizing and updating the conventional arms control is imperative for fulfilling the goal of creating the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. Achieving progress in revitalizing and modernizing the political-military *acquis* could provide a real contribution to the Helsinki +40 process on advancing towards the security community and strengthening the cooperation in the OSCE. We remain committed to continue pragmatic and result oriented discussions in order to overcome the existing impasse and modernize the conventional arms control and Confidence and Security Building Measures regimes.

My country has supported a number of initiatives aimed to modernizing the Vienna Document on CSBM in order to achieve greater transparency, predictability and military stability in the OSCE area. The current developments pose a serious test for the political-

military toolbox of the OSCE and there is a need to act in the spirit and letter of the document in order to ensure that it remains both relevant and credible. The overall efforts should begin with the implementation of the existing commitments built on the solid foundation of the Helsinki principles and to strengthen these commitments in line with the new challenges faced by the organization. We may consider ways to enhance the implementation of the Chapter III on risk reduction of the Vienna Document. While the Republic of Moldova remains committed to the modernization and update of the Vienna Document 2011, we view the two regimes – VD and CFE – as complementary to each other and the legally binding provisions of the CFE Treaty regime cannot be replaced by the political commitments within the VD 2011.

Mr. Chair,

The long lasting impasse and the suspension of the CFE regime implementation by one participating state has significantly decreased the level of military transparency and stability in Europe. Lack of verifiable military information and of opportunities to conduct appropriate inspections on military sites cannot be viewed as a step in the right direction. In the situation we are facing today, the CFE regime would have been a valuable asset to dispel concerns and defuse tensions, thus contributing to stabilization of the situation.

Moldova remains committed to the implementation of the CFE Treaty and its related obligations. It is difficult to speak today about parameters of updating the CFE regime in the absence of basic discussions on the future of conventional arms control. Nevertheless, we proceed from the understanding that the updated conventional arms control should remain a legally binding instrument, consider political-military factors that brought us to the current situation and built upon arrangement and agreements reached in the past, in particular in the framework of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

For my country, the revitalization and full operationalization of the CFE regime should have as a result the fulfilment of all related commitments undertaken at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999, particularly, the withdrawal of the foreign military presence from Moldova, which does not enjoy the consent of the host country. We need, also, to address the issue of unaccounted for Treaty limited equipment illegally transferred to the unconstitutional regime from Tiraspol by the Russian Federation. As for the peacekeeping operation in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, it is obvious that the existing arrangements has to be reshaped in order to meet the existing requirements and needs on the ground. Therefore, we reiterate our call for initiating an open and consistent dialogue on ways to transform the current so-called peacekeeping operation into a multinational mission of civilian observers.

In conclusion, the work ahead of us is not an easy one, but we must continue our efforts to provide stability and security in Europe. Therefore, we need to identify pragmatic solutions to update and modernize conventional arms control regimes that would meet the legitimate concerns of all partners.

Thank you.