



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT
by the Republic of Moldova in response to the address
by H.E. Mikheil Janelidze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
(1102nd Permanent Council, June 2, 2016)

Mr. Chairperson,

We join the previous delegations in warmly welcoming H.E. Mikheil Janelidze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and thank him for the comprehensive presentation. While aligning to the EU Statement, we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Your presence today, Mr. Minister, comes at a particular challenging time for the Organization. The limited, or in some cases, lack of progress in the resolution of protracted conflicts, the on-going crisis in and around Ukraine, the increasing threat of terrorism, migration crisis and trafficking in human beings are just few challenges that require joint efforts by the OSCE community. We strongly believe that the OSCE has a key contribution in addressing these challenges, as the crisis in and around Ukraine has confirmed the high relevance of the Organization in the European security architecture.

In this regard, we highly appreciate your presentation of Georgia's foreign policy priorities and your assessment on security situation in the Southern Caucasus and overall in the OSCE area. Your inputs today reconfirm Georgia's commitment to strengthen the already very solid engagement within the OSCE.

The Republic of Moldova and Georgia enjoy excellent relations based on shared values and common European integration aspirations and goals. This pattern of co-operation between our countries was reconfirmed during the last week's visit of the Moldovan Foreign Minister Andrei Galbur to Tbilisi, which provided an additional opportunity to strengthen our partnership.

We welcome the progress made by Georgia on the European integration path, in particular we congratulate our Georgian colleagues for the Commission's legislative proposal from 9th of March 2016 to allow visa-free travel to the Schengen area for the Georgian citizens holding biometric passports. We reiterate our readiness to share our experience on matters related to the post liberalization management of the visa free regime as well as to continue close cooperation on European integration dimension.

Mr. Minister,

We concur with the assessment that protracted conflicts remain one of the most important obstacles for peace in the OSCE area. These conflicts negatively affect our countries development as well as the regional security and stability. The resolution of existing

conflicts in accordance with the norms and principles of international law should remain a key priority on the agenda of the Organization.

We share concerns expressed with the recent signing of the so-called “agreement on the state border” by the Russian Federation and Tskhinvali. The Republic of Moldova does not recognize this so-called agreement and the previous ones signed by Moscow with Tskhinvali and Sukhumi. These actions contradict the principles of international law, undermine the conflict settlement process and are detrimental to the efforts of the Geneva International Discussions format to improve the security and humanitarian situation on the ground.

We would like to use this occasion to reconfirm the Republic of Moldova’s long standing position of firm support for Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its international recognized borders, with the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as integral parts of Georgia.

Thank you.