



PERMANENT DELEGATION
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TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT

by Mr. Valeriu Chiveri, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
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at the Annual Security Review Conference 2014,
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Working Session I: Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation: Lessons learned and the way ahead

Mr. Moderator,
Dear colleagues,

I would also like to thank the distinguished keynotes speakers for their insightful and thought-provoking presentations. We feel that the efforts by such track-two diplomacy actors are more and more needed in the existing world, including on the European continent.

The protracted conflicts in OSCE area and the ongoing crisis in Ukraine are among the most complex challenges to the European security system and lately to the international law. Use of force has become a more frequent phenomenon in our region in recent years – and this is a major concern for my country. The time is coming to reflect thoroughly about new efficient ways to respond to crisis situations and conflicts – in all stages on conflict cycle – starting from prevention and finishing with post-conflict rehabilitation. It is important to make sure that the new ways to respond **should be based on the principles of international law, be promoted through multilateral mechanisms** and be **driven by genuine political will of key actors**. We continue to support strengthening of the OSCE's capacities in the conflict resolution sphere.

Mr. Moderator,

Let me **turn now to the Transnistrian conflict** which represents the key security problem for the Republic of Moldova. I will present a brief analysis of the current situation and then refer to a few particular issues.

Since the last year the conflict resolution process has entered a period of stagnation and even registered certain setbacks. Negotiations on the many issues are in impasse. The dialogue is getting usually more intense on those topics where we face a crisis situation. Therefore, I would like to highlight at least two major factors that directly influence the situation in the conflict resolution process.

The **first factor is the lack of a genuine interest of some actors involved to start the process of identifying a lasting solution to the conflict.** I have to admit that different political perspectives of Chisinau and Tiraspol on the end-goal of the settlement lead to significant differences in approaches towards resolving technical issues. While Chisinau wants to bring both banks of Nistru river closer to each other and reintegrate the country, Tiraspol, supported by some foreign actors pursues a more radical secessionist agenda. Lack of progress in negotiations generates attempts to resolve problems through unilateral actions and this is even more detrimental. I will refer to the impact of this factor in a few moments.

The **second factor is related to the important trends and developments in the region.** The crisis in Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation have a certain impact on the settlement process.

The general conclusion is that the Transnistrian conflict settlement **needs a reset**, both in terms of *concepts*, as well as in terms of *efforts and energy* invested in promoting the settlement process by all actors involved.

Mr. Moderator,

Let me briefly refer to the situation in a number of concrete areas.

The **5+2 negotiation** process remains focused primarily on technical issues in such areas as trade, economy and transportation, freedom of movement, education, ecology and law-enforcement. The Transnistrian side and the Russian Federation continue to reject the calls to start discussing the political and security aspects – the so called “third basket” of the agreed negotiation agenda. Today, the delegation of the Russian Federation has just reconfirmed this approach. The solution of many concrete problems faced by the population and business community of the Transnistrian region depends on the need to have a shared vision by Chisinau and Tiraspol on the political solution to the conflict. Our key-point here is that **resistance** to even open discussions on political issues leads to further stagnation. And what stagnation in conflict settlement process means? It means that residents in the Transnistrian region continue to live in a legal vacuum without a clear future, being misled by false and illusionary political objectives.

Let me just reiterate that **Moldova’s strategic end-goal** in this process is to achieve a lasting political settlement of the conflict – one that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and provides a special status to the Transnistrian region within a reintegrated country.

Dear colleagues,

I would also like to highlight a number of issues that are currently generating concerns. The **Moldovan Latin-script schools** operating in the Transnistrian region are under constant pressure since the last year’s autumn. Chisinau is looking for a long-term solution that would make sure that the schools can function properly and children have free access to education in language of choice. We hope that Tiraspol will refrain from unilateral measures and will show flexibility in talks.

The situation **in the Security Zone** is generally stable, but fragile. We observe that the Transnistrian security services are continuously take steps in strengthening their infrastructure and presence in the area, which inter alia creates additional obstacles in the free movement of people and goods. Another problem affects directly local population in the Security Zone. The unilateral decision by Tiraspol to stop **access of the farmers from the Dubasari** district to their lands situated beyond the administrative line in the Security Zone has also caused increased tensions. In these circumstances, the **OSCE Mission to Moldova** plays a key role in monitoring situation on the ground and we support efforts to restore the freedom of movement of its entire staff to the Transnistrian region.

On another issue -there was no progress in the **withdrawal of Russian ammunition** depots from Cobasna and military forces. Our position is cristal clear. We call for the resumption of the withdrawal and/or disposal of ammunition, as well as the withdrawal of Russian military forces in accordance with the relevant international commitments.

A couple of words on **economic dimension**. In a few days, Moldova will sign the Association Agreement with EU, including its economic part. Our goal is to provide the population and business community from both banks of Nistru river with equal access to the benefits provided by the DCFTA. Therefore, we hope that Tiraspol will engage in a meaningful related dialogue to work out a formula which will respect the key requirements of the new trade regime.

Dear colleagues,

Let me conclude by saying the following. We noted a lot of questionable elements raised by the delegation of the Russian Federation today, that for obvious reasons are strongly rejected by Republic of Moldova. In any conflict resolution process there is a domestic dimension, but also an external one. In case of the Transnistrian conflict, the role of the external factors is sometimes even more important than local dynamics. In this context, let me stress that a genuine cooperation and coordination among the international partners in promoting the negotiation process is very much relevant today, as stated in the in the recent ministerial council statements from Dublin and Kyiv. Moldova remains committed to work actively through all available channels to move the conflict resolution ahead.

Thank you.