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**STATEMENT**  
**by the Republic of Moldova on the security situation in Georgia**  
*( 825<sup>th</sup> Forum for Security Cooperation, July 13, 2016)*

Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome H.E. Mr. David Dondua, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, and thank them for their interesting presentations. The Republic of Moldova has aligned to the EU Statement. In addition, I would like to make few remarks in my national capacity.

We commend the Polish Chairmanship for including this important issue – Security situation in Georgia – on the agenda of the FSC. Today's discussion is very timely and the inputs of our distinguished speakers are of great importance in understanding the security situation in Georgia and identifying ways for the OSCE to contribute more efficiently in addressing challenges arising from the existing conflict in Georgia.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Moldova and Georgia enjoy excellent relations based on European values, principles and standards. We commend Georgia's achievements in deepening political and economic relations with the European Union. Let me use this opportunity to congratulate Georgia with the entry into force of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement on July 1, 2016.

We share your concerns, Mr. Minister, with the latest developments in the resolution of the conflict in Georgia, which continue to undermine stability and security not just in the Southern Caucasus but in the entire OSCE region. The Republic of Moldova does not recognize the so-called "treaties" signed by the Russian Federation with the Sukhumi and Tskhinvali regimes. These actions as well as the recently announced so-called "referendum" by Tskhinvali on the accession to the Russian Federation contradict the international law, violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and seriously undermine diplomatic efforts for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Republic of Moldova strongly supports a political, comprehensive and lasting resolution of the conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders that includes the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to express our appreciation for the activities of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia. Unhindered access throughout the entire territory of Georgia is of utmost importance for the Mission to fully implement its mandate and provide reliable and impartial information on the situation on the ground for the wider international community. The severe human rights situation in the secessionist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and the lack of access for international monitoring mechanisms in these regions underlines once again the need for restoring a full-fledged OSCE presence in Georgia.

Before concluding, we would like to thank once again our distinguished speakers for sharing their inputs with us today and to wish them every success in their future endeavors.

Thank you.