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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1562nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 April 2026

In response to the report by the Acting Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova

Mr. Chairperson,
Ms. Hartmann,

We thank you for the report on the activities undertaken during the past six months by the field operation that you head. We have also taken note of the appropriate use in the report of the phrase “with an understanding about a special status for Transdniestria”. We are aware that it has been taken from the text of the 1993 decision on the establishment of the Mission. Nevertheless, this phrase has been amended in the OSCE Ministerial Council documents on a Transdniestrian settlement since 2007. We believe that it is necessary, in future, for official OSCE documents concerning a special status for Transdniestria to adhere strictly to the definitions set out in the Ministerial Council decisions.

We note the Mission’s active efforts towards the resumption of direct contacts between the authorities in Chişinău and Tiraspol. Since the beginning of 2026, two meetings have been held between the political representatives of Moldova and Transdniestria in the “1+1” format, and six Working Group meetings have taken place on ecology, education and healthcare.

We share the view of the field operation you head regarding the detrimental impact of Moldova’s law on separatism on the settlement process. Artificial barriers preventing negotiators from Transdniestria from participating in meetings held under the auspices of the OSCE on the right bank of the Dniester must be removed.

We appreciate the Mission’s efforts to facilitate the implementation of the agreements under the “Berlin-plus package”, including the operation of Vehicle Registration Offices in Ribniţa and Tiraspol and the apostillization of Transdniestrian diplomas. We emphasize the importance of stepping up efforts to ensure that residents of the left bank of the Dniester have access to banking services.

Once again, we are obliged to point out that monitoring the situation regarding human rights and national minorities in the host country is also one of your mandated tasks. We regret to note that insufficient attention is paid in the report to the complex situation that is developing in this area.

The authorities in Chişinău have effectively embarked on a policy of restricting the use of the Russian language in the country's public life, a language that serves as a means of inter-ethnic communication within the Republic. Discrimination against the Russian-speaking population by State authorities continues. Educational institutions where lessons are taught in Russian are being systematically closed down, and the teachers working there are being intimidated. The Moldovan authorities are attempting to eliminate the Russian language in the medical field as well – there has been an increase in instances of medicines being sold without instructions in Russian and information not being available in Russian in medical facilities. This is all the more unacceptable when people's lives and health are at stake.

The authorities in Chişinău are waging an open campaign against Russian-language media. Since 2022, the licences of 16 Russian-language television channels have been revoked, and more than 70 websites and dozens of Telegram channels have been blocked. Among them were the accounts of major Russian media outlets.

The Orthodox Church of Moldova has also come under pressure from the Sandu regime. Members of the leadership and clergy of the Orthodox Church of Moldova are increasingly becoming the target of criminal prosecution, including under the charge of "treason". At the same time, an end to the persecution by the Moldovan authorities is explicitly linked to the requirement that sermons include messages supporting the political priorities of the country's current leadership, including the path towards EU integration.

The relevant Moldovan government agencies (the Agency for Inter-Ethnic Relations and the Agency for the Prevention of Discrimination) are failing to respond in any way to the unfolding crisis.

Let me remind you that it was systemic problems relating to human rights violations, primarily against the Russian-speaking population of Moldova, that were the root cause of the 1992 conflict. However, it would appear that the Moldovan authorities are unwilling to learn from this difficult period in their history.

Today, just as three decades ago, the authorities in Chişinău are demonstrating their utter intractability and unwillingness to take into account the interests of a significant portion of the Republic's population. Preference is still given to a policy of pressure rather than a search for compromises.

It is not surprising that, despite all the Mission's efforts, no significant progress has been made in the Transnistrian settlement process. The report explicitly states that the Working Group meetings did not contribute to progress in resolving practical issues. This is further proof that dialogue alone is no guarantee of reaching a compromise. For that, the Sides must also be willing to resolve their differences. Moldova clearly lacks such a will.

The current situation in the economic sphere is also having a humanitarian impact. Moldova has effectively set out to strangle Transnistria. The Moldovan Government's persistent unwillingness to discuss granting Transnistria a special status is most telling; this issue was not even mentioned in Moldova's so-called basic approaches to reintegration, which were leaked to the media. We would remind you that the need to grant the region such a status was enshrined as one of the key elements of the Transnistrian settlement in a number of OSCE Ministerial Council decisions.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the whole, we are obliged to note that the prolonged hiatus in the work of the "5+2" format is having a negative impact on the outcome of the negotiations. This mechanism has proven its usefulness and relevance over many years of productive work. The documents adopted over the course of numerous

Permanent Conference meetings must remain the legal basis for interaction between the authorities in Tiraspol and Chişinău. We urge the Mission to work more actively with all interested parties towards a swift restart of the negotiations in the “5+2” format.

Until then, the current peacekeeping mission, which has proved its effectiveness for more than 30 years, will remain relevant, and the Russian military presence in the region that supports it will continue. The peacekeepers are in Transdniestria in accordance with the 1992 Russian-Moldovan Agreement on the Principles for a Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Dniester Region of the Republic of Moldova and will continue to carry out their tasks until a solution can be found that is acceptable to both banks of the Dniester. This approach is in line with the OSCE decision adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Porto in 2002.

In closing, I should like to wish you, Ms. Hartmann, and the entire staff of the OSCE Mission to Moldova every success in your future work.

Thank you for your attention.