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STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1582nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

22 October 2026

On recent developments in the Transdniestrian settlement process

Mr. Chairperson,

We are compelled to draw attention once again to the alarming trends in the Transdniestrian settlement process, which are threatening to provoke an escalation of the situation on the ground, with inevitable serious consequences for regional security and stability.

At previous meetings of the Permanent Council, we have repeatedly pointed to the systematic actions by the authorities in Chișinău to undermine the existing negotiation mechanisms. Thus, as a result of the uncompromising stance taken by the current Moldovan authorities, the "5+2" format has remained to all intents and purposes on hold since 2019. The attempts being made against this backdrop by certain external actors to shift the focus of the negotiation efforts towards meetings between the political representatives of the Sides in the so-called "1+1" format are not leading to any practical results. Instead of engaging in a substantive discussion of existing differences and working out specific agreements, the Moldovan Side is using them as a pretext for aggressive statements that undermine mutual trust.

In this situation, the authorities in Chișinău are stepping up economic pressure on Transdniestria, effectively imposing a blockade on it. Restrictions are being systematically introduced with regard to the banking sector, the import of essential goods, including medicines, and the export of industrial products. At the same time, obstacles are being created to the conduct of economic activity, in particular through the introduction of new types of charges and duties, along with stricter terms for the transit of natural gas to the left bank of the Dniester. As a result, the region's productive capacity is on the chopping block, something that would entail job losses and a deterioration in the population's financial circumstances. Unfortunately, all this is taking place with the tacit consent of the field operation deployed in Moldova, as well as the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process, Thomas Lenk.

During one of the meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council, Moldova's Deputy Prime Minister Chiveri set forth his approaches to the region's reintegration. At that time, our delegation made it quite clear that the decision by the authorities in Chișinău to impose additional fiscal requirements on

Transdniestrian businesses from 1 September 2026, including so-called value added tax and excise duties, constituted a form of economic pressure on the region.

Extremely revealing in this regard was a recent interview with Mr. Chiveri, in which he openly confirmed that the aforementioned fiscal measures are in fact aimed at "dismantling" Transdniestria's economic potential under the pretext of combating Russian "political and administrative control". No less candid were his assertions that the rationale behind the introduction of new fiscal levies was, and I quote, "controlled escalation". At the same time, he made no secret of the fact that the authorities in Chișinău were aware of the unavoidable serious risks to security and stability in the region.

If Mr. Chiveri's assertions reflect the official position of the Moldovan Side, then we are dealing with a deliberate strategy aimed at scrapping the existing complex framework for a Transdniestrian settlement, something that will inevitably lead to military confrontation and the creation of a new flashpoint in the region. That being the case, we are perplexed by the essentially passive stance taken by the relevant OSCE institutions, primarily the OSCE Mission to Moldova and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process, both preferring to turn a blind eye to the aggressive actions of the Moldovan Side and failing to report them to the Permanent Council.

Our delegation has repeatedly highlighted the negative impact of the prolonged hiatus in the work of the "5+2" negotiation format on the Transdniestrian settlement process. When left essentially to deal with the authorities in Tiraspol one-on-one, the authorities in Chișinău, with the blessing of their sponsors, have no qualms about using the full range of means at their disposal in order to pressurize the Transdniestrians into accepting Moldova's terms for a settlement – that is, effectively to agree to capitulation. This approach runs counter to the formula for a peaceful settlement drawn up at the OSCE and enshrined in a number of Ministerial Council decisions.

We believe that the resumption of meaningful work in the "5+2" format is of critical importance. Over the many years of its existence, this mechanism has proved indispensable in finding solutions to the disputes arising within the framework of the Transdniestrian settlement process. The documents adopted over the course of numerous Permanent Conference meetings must remain the legal basis for interaction between the authorities in Tiraspol and Chișinău. We strongly urge the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Mission to Moldova to step up their engagement with all interested parties on the relaunch of this format. We also expect them to adopt a balanced and impartial approach to carrying out their duties. On a practical level, we trust that Transdniestria's position, along with its concerns and fears regarding the dangerous actions of the Moldovan authorities, will be brought to the Permanent Council's attention on a regular basis.

For our part, we will continue to do our utmost to facilitate a peaceful settlement on the banks of the Dniester, including through our participation in the current peacekeeping mission, which has proven its effectiveness. Our position on maintaining the Russian military presence in the region, a presence backing up that peacekeeping mission, remains unchanged. We should like to emphasize that these 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 fulfil their duties until a formula has been worked out that is acceptable to both banks of the Dniester, in particular in the spirit of the decisions of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Porto in 2002.

Thank you for your attention.