



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

## **Statement in response to the Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Moldova Ambassador Kelly Keiderling**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,  
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1420<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council,  
27 April 2023

### **Mr Chairperson,**

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered under this agenda item by the Delegation of the European Union. At the same time, I would like to add some remarks in the national capacity.

The Delegation of Ukraine welcomes Ambassador Kelly Keiderling back to the Permanent Council.

Having taken a careful note of your report, Madam Ambassador, we would like to draw attention of the Permanent Council to the following issues.

This report makes it clear that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is the core destructive factor, fully undermining the work of the 5+2 negotiation format.

Unfortunately, the Republic of Moldova have been continuously experiencing the negative side effect of the Russian full-scale invasion to Ukraine.

Last year, when Ambassador Keiderling reported to the PC for the first time after her appointment, in this hall we discussed the incidents, when parts of Russian missiles fell on the sovereign territory of Moldova. The current reporting period was also marked by the incident in which Russian missiles violated Moldovan airspace, posing a threat to both its people and infrastructure.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Republic of Moldova and its people for providing shelter to hundreds of thousands of refugees from Ukraine in pressing and challenging conditions, caused by the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

According to the report, despite these challenges, Chisinau and Tiraspol remain committed to solving the issues between them in a peaceful manner, through dialogue and negotiations. We fully support this approach and believe, that the Mission's relevant and result oriented assistance and facilitation of such contacts in accordance with its mandate is even more important than ever in the current security environment.

At the same time, such contacts should, in particular, step by step bring the Transnistrian conflict settlement process closer to the final goal – the full reintegration of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognised borders with a special status for the Transnistrian region.

We consider the absence of significant progress on a number of practical issues, such as the harmonization of import procedures, facilitating the access of vehicles from the Transnistrian region to international road traffic, as a result of Russia-fuelled unwillingness of Tiraspol to really reintegrate the Region in Moldova.

Accordingly, for some of these practical issues, we find it inappropriate to appeal to "both sides" rather than to a particular side. In the long run, it is the compliance by

Tiraspol with relevant Moldovan legislation which is crucial for solving many of the above-mentioned issues. Not vice versa.

Having noted that the Mission “have not heard of significant issues with the functioning of Latin-script schools”, Ukraine would encourage the Mission to personally contact personnel and teachers of these schools. They will for sure share relevant information on a number of serious problems, including but not limited to the specific attention, paid to mentioned people by de-facto authorities of the Region.

Taking into account the numerous facts related to the restrictions of freedom of movement, activities of journalists and representatives of civil society, illegal persecutions and other human rights violations in the Transdnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, including those, stemming from so-called “Transdnistrian strategy on countering extremism for the years 2022-2026”, it would be useful to see deeper reflections on such issues in the Mission’s reports.

In light of the report’s conclusions about the “absence of unusual military activities in the Security Zone”, Ukraine would like to draw attention to the increased movement of the russian armoured vehicles from the Joint Peacekeeping Force in the Security Zone in February-April 2023, not agreed with the Joint Control Commission.

Moreover, there has been an increase in the number of cases when civilian vehicles, including diplomatic ones, accredited in the Republic of Moldova, are groundlessly stopped and inspected by the russian military personnel at checkpoints of the Joint Peacekeeping Force.

Here comes the natural question, whether the vehicles of the OSCE Mission are also subject to such inspections? If so – this is unacceptable practice which must be stopped.

Another issue is the unprecedentedly large number of illegally installed Transdnistrian road blocks in the Security Zone which must be dismantled immediately.

All these issues were raised during one of the recent meetings of the JCC. We also deem it important to have them duly reflected in the report and further discussed.

In this regard, we once again underline the urgency of the issue of withdrawal of military units and munitions of the moscow regime from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Moldova as russia recommitted to do at the 1999 Istanbul Summit and as it was requested by Chisinau itself on numerous occasions.

### **Mr Chairperson,**

The Delegation of Ukraine proceeds from the understanding that russia has fully discredited itself as a guarantor of compliance with the reached agreements and as a mediator in the settlement of the conflict due to its brutal aggression against another guarantor and mediator – Ukraine.

This destructive factor needs to be taken into account when developing further approaches to resolving the Transdnistrian conflict.

In these conditions maintaining stability in the Transdnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova and preventing it from being potentially drawn into the russian war against Ukraine are the issues of primary importance.

The participating States should exert additional pressure on russia to provide the OSCE Mission to Moldova with the possibility to monitor and report on the situation at the munition depot in Cobasna as it was envisaged by its mandate, the scope of which was expanded by the PC Decision N°329/99.

In the light of the absolutely destructive position of russia in the OSCE, which, inter alia, recently resulted in cutting the term of the OSCE Mission’s to Moldova mandate from 12 months to 6, we are considering the visit of the head of the russian

delegation to the OSCE to the Republic of Moldova in March of this year, which he himself called “an inspection”, as nothing else but an attempt to exert pressure on the Mission. This is unacceptable.

In terms of finding a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Transdnistrian conflict, Ukraine has always been and will continue to be standing firmly on its position, based on full respect to sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transdnistrian region within Moldova.

**I thank you, Mr Chairperson.**