



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT
by the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova in response
to the address by the H.E. Mr. Andrii Deshchytsia,
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
990th meeting of the Permanent Council
Vienna, March 20, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to join the previous delegations and to warmly welcome Minister Andrei Deshchytsia at the Permanent Council. For us, it is a particular feeling to greet your Excellency, Minister Deshchytsia, in your new capacity after having enjoyed a very good and productive cooperation in the 5+2 format, while you were acting as Special Representative of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship for protracted conflicts. Now congratulating you with the new appointment, we note that you took this responsible job in the crucial time for your country, but, also, for our region and Europe as well as for the current system of international relations.

We commend the courage and endurance of the Ukrainian people and the restrained response by the Ukrainian authorities in face of pressures, provocations and separatist trend. Moldova stands with the people of Ukraine and will provide all the support to the efforts to overcome the current crisis in a peaceful manner and in conformity with principles of international law. This message was conveyed during the visit undertaken by the Moldovan Prime-minister Iurie Leanca to Kiev and his meetings with Ukrainian leadership, including Acting President Alexandr Turcinov and Prime-minister Arseniy Yatseniuk.

Mr. Minister, Mr. Chairman,

Thanking Mr. Minister for his briefing on the current situation in Ukraine, particularly around the peninsula of Crimea, we share the assessment that the OSCE community is passing through one of the most difficult periods in its recent history. Our entire system of norms, principles and values is severely challenged. New dividing lines are emerging while trust and cooperation between states are dramatically undermined. Security in the region is under direct threat. This crisis is a real earthquake to the existing system of inter-state relations in Europe.

Mr. Chairman,

Now on crisis in Ukraine. We deeply regret the developments that took place since the weekend. The Government of the Republic of Moldova made its position clear on 16 March. The so-called "referendum" on the status of the Crimean peninsula is illegal due to the fact that it directly contravenes with the Ukrainian Constitution and international law. The conditions in which this so-called "referendum" took place

clearly demonstrate that it has nothing in common with a democratic and free expression of people's will and does not correspond with relevant international standards. Respectively, the Republic of Moldova does not recognize and considers a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act principles the decision of the Russian Federation to incorporate a part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine. The so-called referendum and the annexation of Crimea represent grave violations of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders. We condemn these facts. Moldova considers Crimea an unalienable part of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairman,

All illegitimate political developments in Crimea took place hand in hand with intensive activity of the paramilitary groups supported by Russian military units. The blockade and assaults of the Ukrainian military units, intimidation of the military staff and their families as well as provocations against servicemen have caused loss of life and strained the atmosphere to the maximum. It created a real risk of a military conflict. In such circumstances, the monitoring of the situation by military observers under the Vienna Document 2011 could have been very helpful in de-escalating the situation. We regret that observers were denied the access.

Mr. Chairman

The developments in Ukraine have proved to be a real test to the international mechanisms in the sphere of conflict prevention and crisis-management. We note a broad support in this organization for an urgent deployment of the OSCE monitoring mission in Ukraine. The Republic of Moldova has been supporting from the very beginning the invitation of Ukrainian authorities to set up the OSCE monitoring mission throughout the country, including Crimea. We regret that after several rounds of talks, we are not yet, in the position to take a decision. A compromise solution is needed and this requires that all participating states act in a constructive and result oriented manner to reach the consensus on the draft decision put forward by the Swiss Chairmanship. We commend the Ukrainian authorities' pragmatic approach and the compromise attitude displayed so far. However, to move forward we need that all participating states, without a single exception, demonstrate an honest determination to move forward quickly in setting the mission.

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the current crisis should be resolved peacefully. The unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine should be ensured.

Thank you