



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE OSCE

**STATEMENT**  
**by the Republic of Moldova in response to the report**  
**of the Head of the OSCE Mission in Moldova**  
**Ambassador Michael Scanlan**  
*(1052<sup>nd</sup> Permanent Council, May 14, 2015)*

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Scanlan to the Permanent Council and thank him for the comprehensive report. We are glad to hear some notes of optimism in Ambassador's presentation and we hope future developments on the ground will keep this positive outlook.

Indeed, there is a new dynamic in the Transnistrian settlement process, which is reflected, also, in intensification of contacts at the 1+1 and Working Groups level. Chisinau took significant efforts to restart the dialogue showing flexibility, pragmatism and willingness to engage on a wide range of issues with Tiraspol. We will maintain this approach in future. But in order to achieve meaningful progress, at least two basic factors should be in place: *first* – genuine commitment by both sides to look for solutions and *second* – abstaining from setting artificial barriers for dialogue. While we are showing willingness and constructive approach, the existing obstacles and new unilateral decisions of Tiraspol are damaging the atmosphere.

Regretfully, the Transnistrian side continues the tactic of setting preconditions, using some unresolved complicated issues, such as criminal cases, as pretexts for not convening the 5+2 official talks. The recent round of informal consultations held in Vienna on April 21 did not clarify the perspectives of when we will be able to resume meetings in the 5+2 format after almost a year long pause. As we said before, any blocking of negotiations reduces channels for dialogue and is not the right way to get to the compromise solutions.

In parallel, a lot of efforts and energy are invested in preventing new crisis situations. A relevant example, in this sense, is the way we handled the unilateral decision of the Transnistrian administration to introduce obligatory insurances for the cars with Moldovan number plates entering the region. We tried our best to work out a solution to prevent the creation of an additional barrier in the freedom of movement that would

have generated a new source of tensions. Now, we hope that the framework mechanism agreed upon with Tiraspol on 8<sup>th</sup> of May will start working soon, notwithstanding the fact that its full functionality will depend on the insurance companies which are private businesses.

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the efforts of OSCE Mission in facilitating the contacts between Chisinau and Tiraspol. The result-oriented work of experts is indeed very important for achieving progress on various issues. In this context, we will continue to pursue intense dialogue on all aspects related to **trade and economy** within the relevant working group. Against the backdrop of economic decline in the entire region, felt also in Transnistria, we believe that pragmatism should prevail over ideology and a solution will be found for the Transnistrian region to be able to benefit from the opportunities provided by the *EU-Moldova DCFTA*. Chisinau is clearly not interested in any worsening of the economic situation on the left bank of Nistru, but Tiraspol should show more openness for dialogue.

We will also continue to work on other issues such as the situation of the **Latin-script schools** administered by the Moldovan authorities. In this context, we are looking forward to restart the activity of the Working Group on education in the near future. We have also intensified contacts within the **telecommunications** working group. The Working group between **law-enforcement bodies** has recently restarted its activity and hopefully will address ways to improve interaction in this area. We are grateful to the OSCE Mission to Moldova for continuous support in facilitating the removal of the radioactive sources from the Transnistrian region. At the same time, I would also like to inform you that, today, a group of experts from the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations is arriving to Moldova and in coming days will start the work on dismantling the remaining part of the obsolete cable car between Rybnitsa and Rezina. We share the view that the *High-Level Conference on confidence-building activities in Germany* can serve as a good platform for addressing issues and possible solutions by experts and decision-makers.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, let point out that conflict settlement process is not only about *solving issues brought up by the Transnistrian side* but rather about *resolving the Transnistria issue as a whole*. Therefore, we would like to stress that only a discussion on a comprehensive **political settlement** of the conflict could provide the right framework for resolving various legal, economic, security, and social problems. We reiterate that a viable solution can only be based on respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with the Transnistrian region enjoying a special status within a reintegrated country. We call on the partners involved to join their efforts and work towards opening of the negotiations on the political aspects of the Transnistrian conflict. It is, also, necessary to swiftly ensure full and unfettered access of the OSCE Mission throughout the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, including in the Transnistrian region.

With regard to *security situation*, although the situation remains stable there are still sufficient reasons for concern. In particular, we are worried about a series of military exercises undertaken in past months by the Russian military forces present in the Transnistrian region. In this context, we would like to reiterate our longstanding position regarding the need to finalize, without any preconditions, the withdrawal of Russian forces and remaining ammunition stockpiles from Cobasna, in accordance with existing international commitments. We also remind about the need to look into the possibilities to transform the current peacekeeping arrangement into a multinational civilian mission under international mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to the programs run by the OSCE Mission, we would like to express our gratitude for the coordination work and assistance projects carried out in various fields. Let me single out the *Anti-trafficking and Gender* Technical Co-ordination Meetings, organized together with the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and the Permanent Secretariat and hosted by the OSCE Mission that proved to be an effective mechanism for implementing policies in this area in cooperation of government authorities with international organizations, NGOs and other institutions.

With regard to cooperation on *national minorities*, I would like to highlight the recent visit to Moldova by the OSCE High Commissioner Astrid Thors. The HCNM is assisting us with developing a strategy on integration of national minorities and this process has recently entered a new – more practical – phase of public consultations on the draft text. We are also thankful to HCNM for helping to improve mechanisms of dialogue between central authorities and the Gagauz Autonomy.

On *justice reform*, we are highly appreciating good cooperation with OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission on reviewing the draft law on Prosecution service. The recommendations were taken on board and we are expecting to move forward on this issue soon.

Today, the ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission is starting its activity ahead of local elections scheduled for 14 of June.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, let me reaffirm that the OSCE Mission to Moldova remains a valuable partner for Moldovan authorities and we are committed to continue our good cooperation. With this, I would like to wish Ambassador Scanlan and his able team every success in their endeavors.

Thank you