

Second day of the Twentieth Meeting
MC(20) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF THE
PERMANENT CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS FOR THE
TRANSNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT IN THE “5+2” FORMAT**

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:

Recall the Ministerial Statement on the negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process in the “5+2” format adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin on 7 December 2012;

Reaffirm their strong determination to achieve a comprehensive, just and viable resolution of the Transdniestrian conflict exclusively through negotiations, on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;

Welcome the constructive work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format throughout the current year, and the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process;

Encourage efforts by all participants in the negotiation process to achieve compromise solutions;

Express satisfaction that the meetings of the Permanent Conference have been held in conjunction with regular direct contacts between the sides at various levels, including at the political level, and encourage the continuation and diversification of such contacts;

Reaffirm the importance of building confidence and trust between the population on both banks of the Dniester River as a key element of the comprehensive settlement, and in this regard welcome progress achieved in 2013, *inter alia*, in the spheres of freedom of movement and environmental protection, in solving the safety problems of the residents of the cities of Ribnița and Rezina, as well as in prolongation of the agreement on railway cargo transportation through the Transdniestrian region, and encourage the sides to take advantage of all trade and investment opportunities;

Underline the need to achieve tangible progress in the negotiations on all three baskets of the agreed agenda for the negotiation process: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues;

Call upon the sides to intensify their efforts with regard to confidence- and security-building measures and to refrain from unilateral actions that could lead to deterioration of the security situation in the region;

Encourage the sides to build on the progress achieved since the effective resumption of the official work of the negotiation process in the “5+2” format in 2011 in order to resolve outstanding problems, including by removing obstacles to the free movement of people, goods and services, and to fully implement the decisions agreed in the negotiation process;

Call upon the mediators and observers of the OSCE, Russian Federation, Ukraine, European Union and the United States of America to redouble their co-ordinated efforts and to make full use of their potential to promote progress in achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transdnestrian conflict.