

STATEMENT
BY H.E. MRS. NATALIA GHERMAN,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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AT THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
Kiev, 5 December 2013

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship, Foreign Minister Kozhara and his dedicated team, for hosting us today and for the great work throughout the year as chair in office of the OSCE.

Let me start with our priorities on the OSCE agenda. First of all, the Republic of Moldova believes in this Organization and its role in preserving the fundamental principles in relations between its participating States. As we approach the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, I want to stress that ten principles remain as relevant today as they were in 1975. Our continent is in the middle of an intensive geopolitical process and we need a clear set of rules of engagement. In this respect, we attach big importance to the Helsinki+40 process and welcome the efforts of the Ukrainian Chairmanship in advancing it. We believe the focus should be put on full implementation of existing commitments. Protracted conflicts have to be properly addressed in the Helsinki+40 process. The outcome in 2015 should provide a path to forge a genuine security community in the OSCE area.

On the broader OSCE agenda we remain firmly committed to revitalizing conventional arms control in Europe and continue further modernization of the Vienna Document 2011. In human dimension we strongly support the work that is being done by ODIHR, HCNM, and Representative for freedom of the media. Their autonomy must be preserved. We are firm supporters of activity of the OSCE field presences and, in this sense, welcome the continuous valuable contribution by the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me turn, now, to the Transnistrian conflict settlement. We welcome that Ukraine identified it as a priority during its Chairmanship in the OSCE. For the past year we have focused our efforts on three goals – promoting dialogue, building confidence and keeping stability in the region.

Despite all challenges, the dialogue is under way within the 5+2 format, at the level of the Prime-minister of Moldova and the Transnistrian leader and at other relevant levels. Although general dynamic in the settlement process has decreased Chisinau and Tiraspol managed to take a number of joint steps. Just to give you some examples we worked out an action plan in ecology and agreed to rehabilitate water cleaning system of two cities on Nistru river with the assistance of Germany. We created a mechanism on pensions and social payments for people who change their permanent residence. We agreed to dismantle old cable-car across Nistru

river and the Russian Federation will provide assistance in this sense. Chisinau took decision to exclude holders of foreign passports from the Transnistrian region from being subject to regulations in the field of migration designed for foreigners. All these are concrete results achieved in 2013. But let's face the truth – this is obviously not enough in the broader context of the conflict settlement process. There are a number of unresolved issues related to freedom of movement or functioning of the Latin-script schools and the police in the Transnistrian region. We call on Tiraspol to refrain from unilateral actions that could worsen the existing situation. We also encourage our partners to support dialogue on these issues as the only means to identify solutions.

We stress again that besides resolving particular and technical issues we should be looking for framework solutions, based on international standards, that would bring both banks of Nistru river closer to each other. That is why the discussions on the political and security aspects of the conflict should be finally opened. Therefore, we call on the international participants to the negotiations to join their efforts and work together towards achieving final solution to this protracted conflict.

Our view on final settlement remains unchanged. A viable political solution to the conflict can only be based on the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova in its internationally recognized borders. The Transnistrian region should enjoy a special legal status within Moldova which would provide the region with a comfortable level of self-governance. I trust that the entire OSCE community shares this approach and I am pleased that we were able to reflect it in a relevant ministerial statement to be adopted tomorrow.

Monsieur le Président,

Au fil des années, la situation dans la zone de sécurité a eu un impact direct sur les négociations. Tenant compte du risque toujours important des provocations et des actions unilatérales, nous ferons tout notre possible pour maintenir la stabilité dans cette région. Chisinau s'est engagé à régler les incidents à travers les mécanismes existants, mais il ne faut pas négliger que l'actuel dispositif de maintien de la paix n'est pas toujours en mesure de prévenir ou de gérer les situations de crise. À cet effet, nous rappelons la nécessité de bien réfléchir sur un monitoring international de la situation dans la zone de sécurité. La Mission de l'OSCE en Moldavie ne doit pas être restreinte à accomplir son travail dans ce sens. L'idée de la transformation du mécanisme de maintien de la paix en cours dans une mission civile multinationale sous mandat international est également mise sur la table.

Diminuer le facteur militaire dans la région est une autre priorité de la République de Moldavie. Je tiens à réitérer notre position de longue date sur la nécessité de finaliser le retrait des forces russes du territoire de la République de Moldavie, en particulier des stocks de munitions restantes de Cobasna. Nous sommes convaincus que l'achèvement de ce processus aura une portée positive sur la volonté de la résolution du conflit en Transnistrie.

Monsieur le Président,

Il y a quelques jours, lors du sommet du Partenariat oriental à Vilnius, la Moldavie a fait un grand pas sur sa voie européenne. Nous avons paraphé l'Accord d'Association, y compris sa partie relative à la zone de libre échange approfondi et complet. En outre, les efforts importants déployés par mon gouvernement ont abouti à une recommandation de la Commission Européenne concernant la libéralisation de visa. L'intégration européenne n'est pas seulement

un choix libre et souverain de mon pays, c'est aussi le moyen de le moderniser et de le réformer. Permettez-moi de souligner qu'il n'est pas dirigé contre l'un des partenaires externes de la Moldavie. En revanche, il fera de mon pays un membre encore plus prévisible et responsable de la communauté internationale.

La Moldavie veut s'assurer que ses citoyens des deux rives du Nistru ont accès égal à tous les avantages des réformes et de la modernisation. Lors des négociations sur le zone de libre échange, Chisinau a déjà démontré une ouverture totale à Tiraspol. Nous sommes prêts à fournir toute l'assistance et les informations nécessaires à cet égard. Nous faisons appel aux dirigeants de la Transnistrie de se concentrer sur les intérêts économiques à long terme de la communauté d'affaires et de prendre les mesures nécessaires afin de maintenir l'accès préférentiel au marché européen. Une approche pragmatique permettrait de surmonter les difficultés économiques et ouvrir la voie vers le développement.

Mr, Chairperson

Let me conclude by expressing once again gratitude to the Ukrainian Chairmanship and to wish every success to the incoming Swiss-Serbian Chairmanship. Thank you.