

## STATEMENT

by His Excellency Mr. Tudor Ulianoschi, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova at the 25<sup>th</sup>  
meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council  
Milan, 6 December 2018

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

I would like to join previous speakers in thanking Italian Chairmanship for hosting us in the hospitable town of Milan and for the efficient way it managed the work of our Organization throughout the whole year.

Mr. Chairman,

To save time, I would like to say a few words about the protracted conflicts in the GUAM area, which we have been wrangling over for a long time. Regrettably, despite the efforts, today we are forced to acknowledge the lack of tangible progress in overcoming these conflict situations. Moreover, the Russian-Ukrainian naval incident which has occurred recently in the Strait of Kerch demonstrates, once again, how fragile is the peace and security in this geographical area where it is located my country likewise.

Granting that, we do not see a different way of sustainable settlement of the secessionist conflicts that the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine are facing, than in a peaceful manner and based on the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of these countries in their internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chairman,

In the following, I would like to refer to the Transnistrian conflict and to the foreign military presence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova - two major and well known security problems that my country has been faced for many years.

I take delight in thanking all my partners and colleagues who have noted the positive dynamics in the Transnistrian settlement process. As you can see, lately

we have focused on solving the daily problems facing the population in the conflict zone, particularly regarding their right to education, property, freedom of movement etc. We are firmly convinced that these confidence-building measures in the context of small-step policy and support for the people contribute effectively to the rapprochement between the two banks of the Nistru River and to creating an atmosphere conducive for the negotiations process on the final settlement of the conflict.

I would like to thank all our partners to continue to support efforts to attain a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement for the Transnistrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transnistria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population.

In this connection we deem it important to reach an appropriate understanding regarding the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova and the transformation of the current peacekeeping operation into a multinational civilian mission with international mandate. We are convinced that acting in a such manner, we can contribute effectively to the elimination of some serious security threats in our region, given particularly the major environmental and humanitarian risks posed by Cobasna ammunition stockpiles, and implicitly, to contribute to building confidence between all parties involved in the Transnistrian settlement process.

I would like to invoke, in this context, the resolution on "Complete and unconditional withdrawal of foreign military troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova" adopted recently by the UN General Assembly which contains a strong political message in this respect.

Concluding let me thank once again the Italian Chairmanship for their efforts in 2018 and extend my best wishes to the incoming Slovak Chairmanship in 2019.

Thank you!