



**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE**

**Statement by Mr. Valeriu Mija, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Moldova
at the 32nd OSCE Ministerial Council (Vienna, December 4, 2025)**

*Dear Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like to join previous speakers in expressing our sincere gratitude to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, H.E. Ms Elina Valtonen, and to the entire Finnish Chairmanship team for their tireless efforts throughout this challenging year. We also commend the OSCE Secretary General, the autonomous institutions, and all field operations for their professionalism and dedication in advancing the Organization's mandate.

The recent years have tested the resilience of the international community in ways unseen for decades. Regretfully, we continue witnessing a world increasingly defined by tensions, fragmentation and economic hardship.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act - a milestone that continues to serve as the cornerstone of the European security order. We welcome the discussions organized on this occasion in Helsinki, which offered an opportunity to renew our collective determination to preserve and strengthen the principles that underpin peace and cooperation across the OSCE area.

The OSCE remains a unique platform for dialogue and cooperative security, bringing together 57 participating States on an equal footing. Its comprehensive concept of security and multidimensional approach have unique relevance and value.

The Republic of Moldova firmly believes that the OSCE's potential must be preserved and strengthened. This requires joint action to enhance the Organization's functionality,

ensure financial stability, and maintain its operational capacity. Upholding international law and fundamental principles such as sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the peaceful settlement of disputes remains essential. These principles are not negotiable, nor are they subject to reinterpretation.

We remain fully committed to a multilateral, rules-based order and to the European security architecture as defined by the Helsinki Final Act. Moldova will continue to support the OSCE's efforts to uphold peace, stability and respect for human rights across our region.

Honourable audience,

The European security architecture remains under severe strain, as Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine continues to undermine the rules-based international order and the very principles on which this Organization was founded.

Nearly four years since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, we continue to witness unimaginable suffering and destruction in the heart of Europe.

Moldova resolutely condemns this brutal war and reaffirms its unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters.

We call on the Russian Federation to cease its attacks immediately and to withdraw its troops and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine.

Lasting peace in Europe must rest on full respect for international law, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Any peace process should ensure that aggression is not rewarded and that similar threats cannot reoccur elsewhere in Europe. The Republic of Moldova will continue to support all international efforts - led by the United Nations, the OSCE, the European Union, and the United States - aimed at restoring peace, stability, and the rules-based international order.

At the same time, I would like to underline that the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure constitutes a grave breach of international and humanitarian law. In this regard the accountability remains essential, both for the prevention of future atrocities and for providing justice to the victims. For this purpose, Moldova remains a steadfast supporter for the completion of the next steps that will lead to the operationalization of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine and the establishment of the Claims Commission. These form essential part of my country's priorities while exercising the Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

Excellences,

The consequences of Russia's aggression are deeply felt in the Republic of Moldova. Being geographically close to the war in Ukraine, our country has become particularly vulnerable to both external and internal interference extensively promoted by Russia.

Today, Moldova continues facing an unprecedented, sophisticated hybrid war combining cyberattacks, economic coercion and disinformation campaigns, all aimed at destabilizing our society and derail our European path. These hostile actions intensified over the past three years, coinciding with the most important elections since our independence: the presidential in 2024 and parliamentary elections in 2025, as well as the referendum on European integration in 2024.

Despite these challenges, Moldova has demonstrated steady resilience. Importantly, we have preserved stability, safeguarded democratic institutions, and ensured that all elections were conducted in a free and fair manner, in full respect of/in line with international standards. Our authorities have acted promptly and responsibly to counter foreign interference, prevent destabilization, and strengthen public trust.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Transnistrian issue has been and will remain a political priority for the Moldovan government. Since the start of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2022, our authorities have made consistent efforts to maintain stability, prevent escalation, and address the daily needs of citizens on both banks of the Nistru River.

Our strategic approach remains unchanged - to promote a peaceful and political Transnistrian settlement, with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders.

We greatly value the OSCE continued role, including through its Mission to Moldova. We welcome the appointment of the new Head of Mission and express our full readiness to continue constructive cooperation to advance the settlement process and support local communities on both banks.

Let me reiterate clearly. The continued presence of the so-called Operative Group of Russian Troops and its stockpiles of munitions in Cobasna have no legal basis. They contradict international commitments and violate the permanent neutrality status of the Republic of Moldova.

This military presence remains a source of instability. It poses risks not only to the Republic of Moldova but to our broader neighbourhood.

We once again call for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops, military equipment, and ammunition from our territory, in accordance with the Russian

Federation's long-standing commitments. This withdrawal must be conducted transparently and under appropriate international monitoring.

In this vein, we also remain focused on transforming the current peacekeeping mechanism into a multinational civilian mission under an appropriate international mandate.

We stand ready to engage constructively with all partners to move this objective forward and to promote a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable political settlement, one that fully respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders.

Finally, we are confident that the European Integration path of the Republic of Moldova will be a catalyst for the country's reintegration. Our strategic goal is to join the EU as a fully reintegrated, united and peaceful country.

Dear colleagues,

In conclusion, let me say that we must act quickly, together and in a coordinated manner, to restore peace on the European continent, in full compliance with international law. There is no other way.

Allow me once again, on behalf of the Moldovan authorities to thank the Finnish Chairmanship-in-Office and H.E. Minister Elina Valtonen for their dedicated leadership throughout this year, and to extend our best wishes for success to the incoming Swiss Chairmanship.

Thank you.