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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1467th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 April 2024

On the precarious situation around Transdniestria/Moldova

Madam Chairperson,

We are compelled to raise this current issue in connection with the steadily deteriorating situation around Transdniestria/Moldova, where some 220,000 Russian citizens live. Recent developments have clearly demonstrated the unwillingness and reluctance of the authorities in Chişinău to take into account the opinion of those in Tiraspol in resolving the existing disagreements. As is well known, the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format was curtailed and then frozen for spurious reasons at the suggestion of the Moldovan Government and with the support of its Western sponsors. As a result, there have been no meetings under this internationally agreed and well-established mechanism since 2019. Rare contacts between political representatives and meetings of working groups do not bring practical results.

The Russian Federation has repeatedly, including in this room, called upon the “5+2” parties to return to the work of this format. The same call has been echoed in a number of statements agreed upon by consensus by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, where it is also emphasized that the “5+2” format is the only mechanism to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable settlement. It seems that everyone, including the OSCE leadership, has simply forgotten about this. We have not.

Moreover, there have been attempts not only to consign this format to oblivion, but also to do everything necessary to make it impossible to return to it. The law on amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova, which have made “separatism” a punishable offence, has been in force for more than a year now, effectively preventing teams of negotiators from the left bank of the Dniester from crossing to the right bank. The Moldovan Government’s measures to exert severe economic pressure on the authorities in Tiraspol have also diminished the prospect of finding a viable settlement.

Another step clearly aimed at escalating the situation around Transdniestria is the recent decision by Ukraine, which, I should remind you, is also, like Russia, a guarantor and mediator in the Transdniestrian settlement process, to put the chief negotiator from Transdniestria, Vitaly Ignatiev, on its wanted list. What is this if not the deliberate sabotage of peace negotiations? The plans announced by the Kyiv regime to appoint to the post of Ukrainian Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova the former Secretary of the

National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, a well-known proponent of resolving the Transdnestrian issue by force, deal a further serious blow to the prospects for the negotiation process.

The recent kamikaze drone attacks on Transdnestrian military facilities are of the utmost concern. A radar station was damaged as a result of the latest episode, which occurred on 5 April. This incident is yet another provocation aimed at exacerbating the already tense situation around Transdnestria. We expect a thorough investigation into all the circumstances of what happened. We assume that those behind this reckless act are fully aware of its dangerous consequences.

Unfortunately, no reaction, including to the aforementioned incident, has been forthcoming from our Organization. We call upon the OSCE leadership and the participating States to take exhaustive measures to prevent the recurrence of such cases in the future. We wish to draw the attention of the Chairmanship and Minister Ian Borg personally to the seriousness of the Transdnestrian issue on the eve of his visit to the Moldovan-Transdnestrian region. We believe that, by working together, we will be able to prevent the situation from developing into an adverse and unpredictable scenario.

Thank you for your attention.