



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

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**STATEMENT**

by Mr. Andrei Popov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration  
of the Republic of Moldova at the Annual Security Review Conference 2011,  
Vienna, 1 July 2011

**Working Session III:** Revitalizing, updating and modernizing conventional arms  
control and CSBMs: challenges and opportunities

Mr. Chairman,  
Dear Colleagues,

Let me join other delegations in expressing gratitude to the OSCE Chairmanship and the Secretariat for providing us this opportunity to continue substantive discussions on the future of Conventional Arms Control in Europe, as well as to the distinguished keynote speakers Ms. Rose Gottemoeller and Mr. Mikhail Ulyanov for their thought-provoking presentations.

Allow me to express our hope that these debates will help bring us closer to a common understanding on how to overcome a number of challenges that conventional arms regimes in Europe are facing over the last years. In this context, we consider it is the right time to establish a more dedicated annual assessment of the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and fully supports the relevant proposals by a group of participating States to this end. Also, I would like to reconfirm here our full support to the process of revitalizing the CSBMs in the Vienna Document, 1999. We do consider that this valuable instrument should be substantially updated, as it was envisaged in the Astana Commemorative Declaration. But, at the same time, we fully agree with the assertion by the Assistant Secretary of State, Rose Gottemoeller, that Vienna Document can not be considered as a substitute for the Conventional Arms Forces in Europe Treaty.

In this regard, I would like to point out in particular some considerations with regard to the current impasse of the conventional arms regime in Europe, which, for obvious reason, is of central concern for my country as well. The fate of the Treaty is currently caught in the middle of the uncertain security environment in the eastern part of Europe, with specific linkages to the unresolved conflicts that remains one of the continent's most important security challenges.

The Moldovan Authorities fully share the serious concerns expressed by most of the OSCE community on the current status of implementation of the CFE Treaty and the risks posed by the further erosion of the CFE regime to the whole network of conventional arms control and CSBMs in Europe. The presence of foreign forces

without host nation consent is inconsistent with the principle of non-use of force. Like other speakers we do consider that overcoming existing gaps between the accredited norms, principles and commitments and the reality requires a genuine political will.

It is important that work to revitalise the CFE regime continues and brings us closer to a reinforced regime of conventional arms control and transparency in Europe, preserving the integrity of the existing principles and commitments. Moldova remains committed to the CFE Treaty and related obligations and considers that any future regime of conventional arms control in Europe: should have a legally-binding nature, should take into account political-military factors that brought us to the current situation and build upon arrangements and agreements reached in the past, in particular in the framework of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

Reiterating our concern with regard to the fact that certain provisions and commitments related to the CFE Treaty remain unfulfilled and one state party is unilaterally “suspending” its implementation of the Treaty, we would like to express our readiness to continue work in a constructive manner with all partners in the 36 format. In these endeavors we proceed from a clear understanding that the revitalization and full operationalization of the CFE regime should have as a result – full withdrawal of foreign military presence from Moldova, which does not enjoy consent of the host country and in the end – fulfillment of all related commitments undertaken at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999.

When the Moldovan authorities call for the complete withdrawal of Russian armed forces from Moldova in compliance with international commitments, they refer first of all to the Cobasna stocks of munitions and the soldiers which ensure their protection. There exists no document that would serve as a basis for the stationing of these forces on the territory of the Republic of Moldova without the explicit consent of the host country. The issue of unaccounted for Treaty limited equipment illegally transferred to the unconstitutional regime in Tiraspol must also be tackled within this context.

Concerning the peacekeeping operation, the Moldovan authorities appreciate the role it had played, at the appropriate time, in stabilizing the situation after the end of the 1992 military conflict. However, the stability which has been consolidated over the years on both banks of the Nistru River implies new standards and tasks for the peacekeeping mechanism. The focus should be shifted from the separation of the sides towards promoting confidence building measures, interaction and reintegration. The time to stop military clashes has been long gone. Today, we must build a lasting peace together with all our partners in the “5+2” format. To this end, we need a civilian mission which meets modern requirements. A multinational operation with a pertinent mandate from an authorized international organization is the only arrangement that can deliver the necessary legitimacy and efficiency.

In conclusion, I would only like to reiterate our readiness to cooperate closely with all partners involved with a view of identifying fair solutions based on the principle of indivisibility of security that would meet the legitimate security concerns of all partners.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman