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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1164th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 November 2017

**In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova,  
Mr. Michael Scanlan, for his report.

The agreement on the resumption of vehicle traffic on the Gura Bîcului-Bychok bridge is a really significant achievement in the negotiations on a Transdnestrian settlement. We expect the bridge to reopen, as mentioned, next Monday, 20 November. We note that the necessary preparations are proceeding on schedule. A special meeting of the Joint Control Commission has been held and experts from the two sides have determined the extent of the priority repairs to be carried out. We are convinced that the use of this important transport link between the two banks of the Dniester will not only have a positive impact on the economy of the region but will also strengthen trust between the sides.

The compromise once again showed that a solution acceptable to both sides can be achieved if there is a genuine interest by the sides in working in a depoliticized atmosphere guided by the interests of the inhabitants on both banks of the Dniester. We agree with the distinguished Ambassador Scanlan that this achievement was possible thanks to the constructive and pragmatic approach by the Transdnestrian leadership, which has undertaken a whole series of unilateral steps in the past year to resolve problems with Chişinău. We call on the Moldovan authorities in their turn to demonstrate flexibility, which would have an impact on the quality of future progress in the Transdnestrian settlement.

We expect the authorities in Chişinău to confirm their sincere interest in intensifying dialogue with the Left Bank before the meeting in Vienna on 27 November of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnestrian Settlement.

In principle, we believe that more active use should be made in this context of the potential of the "5+2" format. The regular and systematic work of this authoritative platform will enable the sides to present their opinions on the most complex problems in the relations

between the authorities in Chişinău and Tiraspol and the mediators and observers to further motivate the sides to work more actively on their resolution. As a guarantor country and mediator in the process of negotiating a Transdniestrian settlement, we are willing to work actively with the sides and with international partners to arrive at workable solutions to the Transdniestrian problem.

An indispensable prerequisite for progress in the settlement is the rigorous observance of existing agreements. We believe that it would be useful to give objective consideration to the Russian proposal presented at last year's "5+2" meeting in Berlin on devising a mechanism for incorporating the agreements reached in this format into national legislation.

The prospects for a settlement in Transdniestria are directly contingent on strengthening the atmosphere of tolerance and mutual understanding. With that in mind, we feel obliged to draw attention to a number of examples of an unneighbourly policy by Chişinău towards Russian citizens, officials and media. It should be borne in mind that these activities by the current Moldovan Government are felt strongly by the population of Transdniestria and reinforce their reservations regarding the true aims of the authorities in Chişinău. In that sense, the destructive measures taken for the sake of narrow political interests have a negative influence on the prospects for a Transdniestrian settlement as a whole. We urge the OSCE Mission and international partners of the Government in Chişinău to give this problem their most careful attention.

Thank you for your attention.