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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS IN THE “5+2” FORMAT**

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:

1. Recall the past ministerial statements on 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;
2. Reiterate their strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;
3. Underline the need to continue the result-oriented settlement process reaffirmed by the Hamburg, Vienna, Milan, Bratislava and Tirana ministerial statements and call upon the Sides to engage accordingly in the negotiation process in 2022 when Poland will be chairing the OSCE;
4. Urge the Sides to further consolidate the achievements reached since the Vienna Ministerial meeting on priority issues and to work towards the full and continuous implementation of all agreements expressed in the protocols of the “5+2” meetings in Rome 2018, Vienna 2017 and Berlin 2016 thus contributing to building a solid basis for further advancing the settlement process;
5. Underline the need for further accelerated implementation of the provisions of the Protocol Decision of 24 April 2018 “On the participation of vehicles from Transdniestria that do not carry out commercial activities in the international road traffic”, as well as for active work on other issues related to transport, in observance of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic of 1968;
6. Encourage the Sides to develop joint proposals on further confidence-building measures, based on the progress achieved in the implementation of the “Berlin-plus package”, and to intensify their dialogue on and efforts with regard to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in view of continuing relevant serious concerns,

including in individual cases and in areas directly affecting the daily lives of the local population;

7. Applaud the interaction between the Sides in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, including with regard to the provision of 263,000 doses of vaccines and other assistance to Transdnistria, and encourage them to continue on this path and to intensify their interaction on other humanitarian issues for the benefit of the inhabitants on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River;

8. Note the increasing number of meetings and Working Groups between the Sides in 2021. Call upon them to continue to work at all levels of the negotiation process in a rhythmical manner to achieve tangible progress on all three baskets of the agreed agenda for the negotiation process: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues, in accordance with the internationally agreed principles as referred to in paragraph 2;

9. Underline the importance of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format as the only mechanism to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable settlement, reaffirm the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process; note with concern that the last meeting of the Permanent Conference took place in 2019 and welcome in this regard the commitment of all concerned to hold a result-oriented meeting in this format as soon as possible;

10. Applaud the unified and active approach by the mediators and observers of the OSCE, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the European Union and the United States of America in the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format and encourage them to continue to co-ordinate their efforts and to make full use of their collective potential to promote progress in all dimensions towards achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transdnistrian conflict.