

PROTOCOL

on Development of the Mechanism for Elaboration and Approval of the Constitution of a Federate State

1. The Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie (hereinafter referred to as the Parties) believe that settlement of the Pridnestrovian problem is possible based on the joint elaboration and adoption of the Constitution of a Federate State by means of preliminary nation-wide discussion and the subsequent referendum.

2. To prepare the text of the draft Constitution of the State, the Parties shall establish Joint Commission on Elaboration of the Constitution of the State, consisting of plenipotentiary representatives of the Parties, with invitation of experts from mediating countries – the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the OSCE to act as observers, along with other international observers, upon consent of the members of the Joint Commission on Elaboration of the Constitution of the State.

3. Composition of the Joint Commission on Elaboration of the Constitution of the State shall be determined within a month upon signing of this document. Personal propositions regarding composition of the Joint Commission on Elaboration of the Constitution of the State are introduced based upon the parity of plenipotentiary representatives of each Party.

4. Joint Commission on Elaboration of the Constitution of the State proposes draft text of the Constitution to be published within six months since approval of its composition.

5. Draft Constitution of the State shall be proposed for all-people's discussion by the Joint Commission on Elaboration of the Constitution of the State. Introduction of corresponding amendments and additions to the draft Constitution is carried out by the Joint Commission on Elaboration of the Constitution of the State based upon its regulations, within two months since its publication.

6. Referendum on the adoption of the Constitution of the State shall be held prior to or on February 1, 2004. The Joint Commission on Elaboration of the Constitution of the State makes proposals on establishing mechanism of conducting the referendum. The leadership of the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie commits itself to ensure all conditions necessary for the carrying out of this referendum in accordance with the OSCE and Council of Europe standards.

7. The Parties commit themselves to ensure preparation and carrying-out of elections on the creation of federate bodies in accordance with provisions of the Constitution of the State, no later than February 25, 2005.

8. Some transitional provisions will be as well included in the Constitution of the State.

Approved by:

From The Republic of Moldova (signed)

From Pridnestrovie (signed)

From OSCE (signed)

From Russian Federation (signed)

From Ukraine (signed)

Chisinau, February 28, 2003