

THE FOURTH STAGE

The Period of Consolidation of External Actors' Efforts on the So-Called Reanimation of the Negotiation Process and Defining an Acceptable Negotiation Format (2007–2011)

JOINT STATEMENT

The leadership of the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Meeting in Moscow on March 18, 2009, in the presence of the President of the Russian Federation,

Expressing content with the fact that peace on the Dniester is maintained over many years,

Guided by the desire to settle the Pridnestrovien conflict by exclusively peaceful political means,

Have agreed as follows:

1. The Parties shall continue direct contacts in order to intensify the negotiating process on a political settlement of the Pridnestrovien conflict.

2. Parties shall step-up the work of expert groups on elaboration of confidence-building measures and development of cooperation on the Dniester in the socio-economic and humanitarian fields.

3. The Parties reaffirm the significant importance of the Permanent Consultations on Political Issues in the Framework of the Pridnestrovien Settlement Negotiating Process (the 5+2 format) and shall create conditions for a speedy resumption of the work in this format – if possible, in the first half of 2009. The Parties call upon all participants of the 5+2 format to assist in the creation of such conditions.

4. The Parties note the stabilizing role of the current peacekeeping operation in the region and proceed from the expediency of its transformation into peace guaranteeing operation under the auspices of the OSCE according to the results of the Pridnestrovien settlement.

5. The Parties express their appreciation to the Russian Federation for its mediating efforts aimed at assisting in the search for a sustainable and comprehensive variant of the Pridnestrovien settlement.

V.N. Voronin
(signed)

I. N. Smirnov
(signed)

D.A. Medvedev
(signed)