Foreign ministers of the OSCE participating states asserted the need for permanent inter-relationship of the two banks of Nistru, including on managing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic



The 27th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council took place on 3-4 December, under the auspices of the Albanian OSCE Presidency, and a new Declaration on the "5+2" negotiation process on the Transnistrian settlement was approved.

The officials from the 57 OSCE participating states reaffirmed the importance of the "5+2" negotiation process as a single dialogue mechanism for the comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. They urged the parties to organize a new round of negotiations in 2021, as soon as possible, to focus on a results-oriented approach and continue to engage appropriately during the Swedish OSCE Presidency next year.

The parties were encouraged to enhance their cooperation on managing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The importance of ensuring permanent inter-relationship between the two banks of the Nistru river and constructive efforts to quickly restore freedom of movement were also pointed out.

Likewise, the parties were urged to intensify the dialogue and take efforts to ensure protection of human rights, as well as to launch new joint initiatives aimed at promoting confidence-building measures based on the progress made in implementing the "Berlin+ Package".

The text of the Declaration highlighted the need to strengthen the agreed commitments on priority issues and ensure the implementation of all agreements reflected in the protocols of the "5+2" negotiation rounds in Rome in 2018, Vienna in 2017 and Berlin in 2016.

The OSCE Ministerial Council called on the parties to continue, in a sustainable manner, the efforts at all levels as to achieve tangible progress on all three baskets of the negotiation agenda: socio-economic issues; general legal, humanitarian and human rights issues; comprehensive settlement of the conflict, including institutional, political and security issues.

As in previous Declarations, the OSCE participating States have reiterated their firm determination to obtain a comprehensive, peaceful and lasting settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, within its recognized borders at the international level, and by offering a special status to the Transnistrian region that would guarantee respect for human rights, as well as political, economic and social rights for the population of the region.

