



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Tatiana Molcean**

**State Secretary of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova**

**at the UNGA plenary meeting  
item 67 - “The Situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine”**

*(New York, 20 February, 2019)*

Madame President,

The matter before us, although inscribed as an item on the GA agenda for the first time, is not new to anyone who is aware of the events that have been occurring in Ukraine since 20 February 2014.

According to our estimation, in the last five years, the UN member states discussed the situation in Ukraine, including in the eastern part of the country, more than 30 times. The General Assembly adopted five resolutions which addressed various issues arising from the illegal annexation by the Russian Federation of the Crimean peninsula.

The OSCE, the Normandy Format, the Trilateral Contact Group and other relevant formats and organisations have been also seized on these matters which continue to affect the plight of millions of Ukrainian citizens that are exposed to the consequences of the unresolved crisis in Ukraine.

The statement presented today by the President Piotr Poroshenko and his update on the situation on the ground, like any other information coming from Ukraine, does nothing else but increases our deep concern over the further destabilizing of an already unstable region, to which both Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova belong to.

The ongoing militarization of the Crimean peninsula and the Black and Azov seas, the seizure of Ukrainian vessels and their crews, the presence of foreign military equipment and personnel in areas currently not under the control of the Government of Ukraine, the dire human rights situation in the Crimean peninsula, the Donetsk and Luhansk regions are matters of great concern for the international community.

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union and fully subscribes to the positions contained there, including on the issues listed above.

In addressing the situation in and around Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova remains fully committed to upholding in their entirety the Charter of the United Nations, the 1975 OSCE Helsinki Final Act and all other commitments and principles under international law.

The Republic of Moldova was one of the many countries that supported the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of the UN General Assembly of the item 67 entitled “The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine”.

We also supported the adoption by the General Assembly of all resolutions on Ukraine.

The Republic of Moldova will continue to support Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders.

For the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine is more than just a friendly neighboring country.

We share together with Ukraine many things, including a tragic past and similar modern challenges to our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Like Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, is confronted with an externally generated protracted conflict which precludes the Government to exercise effective control in the eastern part of the country.

The militarization of and the unlawful presence of un-constitutional power structures and foreign military forces and armaments in these areas are common features for both countries.

The holding of orchestrated illegal elections and referendums in the non-government controlled areas, the issuance *en masse* of foreign passports to the inhabitants of those areas, as well as the employment of sophisticated subversive policies of propaganda and disinformation are only some of the instruments and hybrid tactics that are used to “legitimize” and to obfuscate attempts aimed at changing the internationally recognized borders.

By bringing before the UN General Assembly matters arising from challenges to their sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and other States from the post-soviet area do not seek confrontation or politicization in the work of the General Assembly.

It is only natural for such States to turn to UN for assistance in promoting and encouraging solutions based on the strict observance of the International Law and UN Charter.

Our countries are deeply committed to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and in the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States.

The 1970 Declaration solemnly proclaims, *inter alia*, the principle that States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or to violate the existing international boundaries of another State as a means of solving international disputes, including territorial disputes and problems concerning frontiers of States.

It further proclaims that every state has the duty to refrain from organizing or encouraging the organization of irregular forces or armed bands including mercenaries, for incursion into the territory of another State.

The territory of a State shall not be the object of military occupation resulting from the use of force in contravention of the provisions of the Charter. The territory of a State shall not be the object of acquisition by another State resulting from the threat or use of force.

No territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as legal.

For us, Madame President, these principles are non-negotiable values.

The Russian Federation should uphold fundamental principles that it has itself invoked many times and to contribute, by acts and public pronouncements, to stabilizing the situation in non-government controlled areas of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and elsewhere and reversing moves that contradict these principles.

In this context, we call upon the Russian Federation to put an end to its destabilizing interferences in the region, to abide by fundamental principles of international law and to fully implement the General Assembly relevant resolutions, particularly the resolution 68/262 entitled "*Territorial integrity of Ukraine*" and the resolution 72/282 entitled "*Complete and unconditional withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova*".

Madam President,  
Distinguished delegates,

It is difficult to imagine sustainable peace and security without rule of law.

At stake in our deliberations today is not only the situation in Ukraine but also the stability and security in our region and the norms of international behaviour.

The international community and the United Nations cannot pass over in silence the acts that violate and undermine sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

To do so will only accelerate what is already a disturbing trend of making permanent the situations of *fait accompli*, imposed by force and other forms of coercion.

Thank you for your attention.