

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New-York, 29 September 2010

**Mister President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in addressing to H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss our sincere congratulations on his election as President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly and to assure him of the full support of our delegation.

The General Debate this year is held on the eve of the 65th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter, which laid down the foundation of our Organization. For more than six decades the United Nations was tested by numerous challenges and crises, and today we can proudly state that it proved its relevance, importance and vision for our humankind.

We extend our appreciation to the Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his tireless efforts in steering the work of this global Organisation and addressing critical international issues. We commend his engagement in convening the High-Level Plenary Meeting on MDGs, during which the member states, including my own country, assessed the achieved progress and the numerous challenges we are facing while implementing the MDGs.

The Republic of Moldova is committed to the accomplishment of MDGs by 2015. As a member of the Economic and Social Council, Moldova presented the Comprehensive National Voluntary Report on MDGs during the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review Meeting in July 2010. The inclusion of MDGs in the national policies and their accurate implementation is one of the Government's main priorities, and I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the organizations of the UN system for their support in reaching these goals.

Mister President,

The economic and financial crises that stroke the international community were exacerbated by food insufficiency and natural disasters, local and regional conflicts, terrorism and trans-border criminality. The issues on the UN agenda reflect the modern realities and challenges, and I would like to bring to your attention a few areas of foremost importance - human rights and democracy, welfare and sustainable development, climate change, peace and security and, last but not least – the UN reform.

Building a state of law lies at the heart of the overall activities of the Moldovan Government. Development of legal and institutional frameworks in the area of human rights and strengthening human rights protection mechanisms are amongst the main Government's objectives. While our country is characterized by diversity and multiculturalism, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, we reiterate our commitment to fight against extremism, xenophobia and other forms of racism and discrimination. The membership in the Human Rights Council, attained for the first time by our country in May 2010, is in line with the irreversible course of Moldova towards the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We assumed the commitment to contribute to the prevention of human rights violations through active participation in the Council's activities and will present the first national report under the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism in 2011.

I would also like to point out that Moldova is a state party to nearly all the multilateral treaties in the field of human rights within the UN system; last week we deposited with the Secretary General the ratification document of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will become a full-fledged member of the International Criminal Court after recent ratification by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova of the Rome Statute of ICC.

We express our solidarity with the appeals articulated during various UN fora to invest more in advancement of women and we support the Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. Likewise, we are confident that the new entity „UN Women” will contribute to

the consolidation of international efforts in achieving the goals of equality and advancement for all women.

Mr. President,

Though the impact of the global economic crisis had a negative effect on the economy of the Republic of Moldova, including on the achievement of MDGs targets, the crisis constituted a turning point in starting new economic reforms, building up innovative partnerships and mobilizing all national stakeholders in order to create an economic and social sustainable system. To this end, the Government proceeded to changing the country's development paradigm to an economy based on investments, innovations and competitiveness, creating new jobs, undertaking robust measures in the area of poverty reduction.

These goals will not be achieved unless we create a healthy and eco friendly environment, while putting in place a sound infrastructure that would protect our wealth and families from natural disasters. During recent years, Moldova has confronted considerable natural calamities – from acute droughts to harsh floods, which deepened in their devastating impact and frequency each year. The harm caused to the population, to the agricultural and food production sectors, as well as to the overall national economy is incommensurable.

On behalf of my Government, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the development partners, governments and multilateral organizations, for their prompt response and assistance in overcoming the consequences of the severe floods that affected our country last summer. I would also like to extend particular gratitude to the UN Office in Moldova for its support in assessing the post disaster needs. On its own side, my country extended a hand of help to others in need, contributing to the people of Haiti 100,000 US dollars.

We believe that the adoption of a post-Kyoto treaty is actual and vital as never before. We have to address the challenge of climate change with a synergy of national and integrated international responses, and we are looking forward to the positive outcome of the forthcoming conference in Cancun.

Mr. President,

The latest global crises emphasized the central role the UN is to play in the mobilization of efforts by the international community, and more than ever the need to increase the efficiency of the Organization.

Strengthening of multilateral potential of the United Nations should be pragmatically adapted to the new realities, enhancing its influence in strict accordance with the UN Charter. Therefore, the UN system ought to be optimized by strengthening its main and subsidiary bodies in order to avoid duplication by different UN structures. This reform, beside the increase in efficiency and effectiveness of the UN activities, will save significant resources, which can be redirected to priority areas where the Organization's support is most needed.

A major component of the UN revival is the reform of the Security Council. We welcome the results achieved during the negotiations and believe that the success of the reform requires a political commitment of all member states. We share the view that the membership of the Council should be extended in both its categories and that one additional non-permanent seat should be allocated to East-European Group.

Mr. President,

The importance of cooperation for the enhancement of the international security, disarmament and non-proliferation and counteracting international terrorism was stressed by many speakers in this hall.

The terrorist acts occurring in different parts of the world demonstrate that terrorism continuously threatens international security, fundamental democratic values and human rights. The Republic of Moldova condemns terrorism and extremism in all its forms and expresses its entire support to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

After many years of deadlock, a significant progress in disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects was registered this year. The US-Russian START-agreement, the Nuclear Summit in Washington and the NPT Review Conference represent just a few of the positive examples of the increased cooperation of the member states. We welcome the entry into force, on August 1st, of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to which the Moldova brought its contribution, as well as the launching of the negotiations on the Arms Trade Treaty.

The participation of the Republic of Moldova in the UN Peacekeeping Operations highlights the country's political willingness to contribute to international peace and stability and to be effectively engaged in building a strong security architecture through peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.

The enhancement of international cooperation in the field of conflict settlement, with a view to exclude future occurrences or escalation of crisis situations, which jeopardize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, is of primary importance for my country as it confronts the secessionism phenomenon in its eastern districts.

The Republic of Moldova continues to face significant security challenges generated by separatism in the Transnistrian region of the country. 18 years since the cease-fire agreement was signed Moldova remains artificially divided. Due to this fact the whole system of international commitments in the fields of democratic governance, human rights and arms control is not functioning on that part of the national territory. The local population is living in a situation of a legal vacuum with no clear future. Foreign forces are still stationed in Moldova despite the lack of consent of the host government and previous decisions and commitments regarding their withdrawal.

At the same time, it is absolutely obvious that there are objective premises to resolve the Transnistrian problem. The practical steps undertaken by the Government of Moldova clearly show that the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict is one of its central priorities. We consistently advocate in favour of a policy of dialogue, openness and trust. Our efforts are concentrated on developing regular contacts between Chisinau and Tiraspol at the level of political representatives, as well as in the working groups created to build confidence in various areas. Our main goal is to provide the much needed support to the population and businesses in the region, including by the means of international projects and programs.

International partners in the settlement process are also showing interest for an increased engagement aimed at the full territorial reintegration of the Republic Moldova. This positive trend should be strengthened and the first step in this direction would be the earliest and unconditional resumption of the official negotiations in the "5+2" format. That would allow us to start working on a formula of a viable, comprehensive settlement, based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

It would also offer us the necessary framework for the implementation of confidence-building and reintegration projects as well as for the transformation of the current so-called "peacekeeping operation" into a multinational civilian mission based on relevant international standards and mandate. In this context, we firmly believe that the OSCE Summit at the end of this year should provide a clear perspective for the Transnistrian conflict settlement and withdrawal of foreign forces from Moldova, in line with commitments undertaken at the previous Summit.

Mr. President,

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our principled position that conflict situations, wherever they appear, are to seriously impact peace, security and stability and thus have to be solved on the basis of full respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states.

We are concerned by the attempts, made in particular by the non-State entities, to misinterpret and to substitute the sense of the ICJ advisory opinion on Kosovo. Such attempts run contrary to the spirit and substance of the imperative principles of international law and endanger the international legal order, international security and stability. It is, therefore, of utmost importance, to make it clear that international law does not confer a right to ethnic, linguistic or religious groups to break away from the territory of a state of which they form part, without that State's consent.

Like other Member States, the Republic of Moldova fully shares the view that a unilateral secession cannot be an acceptable way of resolving conflict issues. When engaging in settlement efforts we must also proceed from the recognition of the fact that each and every case is a unique one and should not constitute a precedent for addressing and settling other conflicts of different factual context.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Moldova is determined to advance on its path of European Integration, a fundamental priority of its domestic and foreign policies. The achievement of this goal will enable the country to embark on a stability and prosperity course, governed by democratic values and respect for fundamental human rights, rule of law and economic freedom.

The Moldova-EU relations have intensified in the last year, given the firm commitment of our Government to improve ties with the European Union and its Member States. We successfully launched, on 12 January 2010, the negotiations on the Association Agreement and had three rounds of negotiations during which a convergence of approaches was registered. Moreover, we have launched 3 dialogues with the EU – on human rights, visa liberalization and creation of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. We are confident that the constructive approach in our cooperation process will contribute to the advancement of our country on the European way and we are grateful to the EU Member States for their strong support and firm shoulder to Moldova's ambitious European agenda.

Furthermore, we consider that after the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty new opportunities emerged for enhanced cooperation of the European Union with its international partners, including the United Nations, and we express our support for the active and efficient participation of the European Union in the work of UN General Assembly.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the involvement of the Republic of Moldova in the work of the United Nations represents one of the strategic objectives of our foreign policy and our country remains committed to achieving the objectives of the UN Charter, set by the founding fathers 65 years ago, and embraced by all Member States.

I thank you.