



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

STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Victor Moraru,

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations

**on agenda item 69 - "Report of the Human Rights Council" -
Plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly**

(New York, 2 November 2018)

Mme President,

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the report of the Human Rights Council presented by the President of the Council, Ambassador Vojislav Šuc. We appreciate Ambassador Šuc's dedicated work as the President of the Council and wish to express him full support.

Seventy three years ago, the UN Charter established that human rights is one the three fundamental pillars of the UN system alongside with peace and security and development. Therefore, the Human Rights Council is a central body of this organization that serves as a platform to promote human rights worldwide and keep a constant watchful eye on the worlds' most pressing human rights challenges.

The variety of issues that are comprised in the Council's report this year attest to the intensity of the work of the UN system in the area of human rights and the ever expanding list of issues that require the outmost attention of the international community.

As we mark in 2018 the 70th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/144, the UN Member States should maintain their support to and continue their engagement with the Human Rights Council with the view to promote the fundamental principles and commitments contained therein.

Mme President,

While no country in the world can claim to have a "perfect" human rights record, the Republic of Moldova shares the belief that imperfections and deficiencies cannot be concealed or swept aside. We very often hear and many Member States agree that human rights are universal, inalienable, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. But as repetitive as it may sound, this is not a hollow affirmation. These are the principles that encompass the essence of human rights and the way the UN should approach it.

There can be divergence of opinion derived from some political or cultural peculiarities, however, engaging in dialogue and embracing a human rights system that Member States themselves have created is all the more productive and beneficial both for multilateralism and human rights protection, than simply rebuff it.

In this respect, we reaffirm the importance of granting unimpeded access of mandate holders to countries, institutions, individuals and civil society with the view to ensure the fulfilment of Human Rights Council's primary role in pursuing accountability and improving the human rights situation worldwide.

We are concerned that despite an intricate UN system in place, human rights violations and abuses continue, in many cases, without impunity, the most disconcerting being the continuing reprisals against human rights defenders, the countless innocent victims, including children fallen in wars or subject to tremendous suffering, the continuing subjugation of entire populations to misinformation or manipulation through the control of the media or other means for strategic purposes, incompatible with International Law. Certainly, the list does not end here.

These are unacceptable acts and the UN Member States have the moral and legal responsibility to protect everyone from harm and persecution. The Human Rights Council has the responsibility to remain alert and swiftly respond to such undesirable situations.

Moreover, it has been stated many times that human rights violations are often the precursors of conflicts. Therefore, while it may appear that the persistent pointing to those human rights violations is often a cause of irritation for Member States, in fact addressing those violations in good faith and building institutions for human rights protection could be the needed solution for prosperous and stable societies and for the prevention of conflicts.

In this regard, the Human Rights Council is the necessary platform for dialogue between Governments and with the civil society to ensure that those violations and grievances are talked through and solutions are found in a constructive and non-politicized manner.

Mme President,

Since the establishment of the Council in 2006, the Republic of Moldova has adopted a cooperative approach with its mechanisms and issued a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures. The Moldovan Government is poised to honour this standing invitation as many rapporteurs already visited our country in the past and we stay open to cooperate in full transparency and diligence in the future.

The Third National Action Plan on Human Rights for 2018-2022 adopted this year incorporates the recommendations by the UN monitoring bodies and other relevant regional organizations, resulting in a comprehensive roadmap which the Government is fully committed to pursue. Moreover, this National Action Plan reflects most of the recommendations from Moldova's second Universal Periodic Review of November 2016.

The Republic of Moldova reaffirms its support to an effective and efficient functioning of the Human Rights Council and will continue to shoulder initiatives aimed at its further strengthening, including efforts seeking to improve the Council's working methods. Only by remaining "fit for the purpose" will the Council retain its continued relevance.

The Republic of Moldova has put forward its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2020-2022 at elections to be held in 2019. As a country that served already on the Council and which went through deep societal transformations, the Republic of Moldova wishes to bring its unique perspective to the work of the Council on efforts to promote human rights, particularly in the emerging and transition societies.

In closing, Mme President, I would like to welcome both the appointment by the Secretary General of Mme Michelle Bachelet as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and her recent first engagement with the members of the General Assembly in the Third Committee.

The support of her office to the work of the Human Rights Council is instrumental for its effective functioning and we express our openness to cooperate with the High Commissioner in fulfilling her very important mandate.

I thank you, Mme President.