



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

STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Victor Moraru

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova

on item 74 - Promotion and protection of human rights – implementation of human rights instruments - of the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 25 October 2018)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on the assumption of the Chairmanship in the Third Committee and to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in fulfilling your important mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

Every year, the Third Committee debates extensively on human rights issues and those discussions can never be exhaustive because human rights, like International Law and society itself is ever changing and evolving. Governments have the responsibility to work together with the civil society to continuously and progressively review legal frameworks on human rights in order to adapt them to changing societies.

As a country committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, the Republic of Moldova is a party to most of international human rights treaties and cooperates with a large number of international organizations and mechanisms, both at regional and international level, in its efforts to ensure the highest possible standard of human rights protection.

While we strive to continually improve the human rights situation in our country, we are also willing to engage and contribute internationally. That is why the Republic of Moldova has presented its candidature for election to the Human Rights Council for 2020-2022, at elections to be held next year. We attach great importance to this candidature and we will continue to work with all delegations to inform them about the contribution we want to bring to this UN body.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Moldova's national policies and legislation on human rights are guided primarily by the UN treaties, regional conventions, in particular those emanating from the Council of Europe, including the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. This signifies a high level of accountability and monitoring which regulates all domestic processes and institutions in the field of human rights.

Apart from its reporting obligations derived from UN treaties, the Republic of Moldova holds regular dialogues with the European Union on human rights protection (at least twice a year), which represents an important exercise of monitoring and evaluation to ensure that steady progress is achieved in this area.

Just earlier this year, the Third National Action Plan of Human Rights for 2018-2022 was adopted, incorporating the recommendations by the UN monitoring bodies, the Council of Europe, as well as by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, 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.

In the recent years, several legislative changes were made, up to amending the supreme law of the country, the National Constitution, in order to ensure people's access to justice and include new provisions regarding the "People's Advocate" or the "Ombudsman". These provisions refer to the appointment of the Ombudsman by the Parliament through a transparent selection process and guarantee his total independence in fulfilling the mandate for a period of 7 years.

Another relatively new and important piece of legislation refers to the humanization of criminal policy which entered into force in December last year, thus bringing the national criminal law and practice in line with the standards of the Council of Europe. Since then the number of detainees in domestic prisons was reduced by half. This is largely due to the changes that were introduced to strengthen the concept of individualization of punishment, where the principles of proportionality and of early/conditional release from prison are essential.

I would also like to mention the approval in March 2018 of a Disability Determination Mechanism, which allows disability determination not only based on some physical impairment, but also based on psychological and social evaluations. And, most importantly, currently a new national programme is envisaged to deinstitutionalize up to 50% of the number of persons with intellectual or psycho-social disability by 2022.

Referring to gender equality and the empowerment of women, I am glad to report that the National Parliament approved a 40% quota on women's inclusion in political parties' lists.

Moreover, earlier this year, a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was adopted. These are important milestones for promoting women's participation and leadership in society, including in politics and the security sector, therefore dispelling the deeply entrenched gender stereotypes that existed in the past.

Mr. Chairman,

These are just a few illustrations of how the Government of the Republic of Moldova is continually working towards improving the legislative and institutional base for ensuring human rights protection.

While much has been done, there are many challenges which still remain to be addressed.

The Government is committed to keep an open dialogue and an open minded approach in its interaction with civil society at country level and with international human rights mechanisms so that progress can be achieved in a joint and constructive effort.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.