

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



Revised

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Mr. Andrei STRATAN

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE SIXTY THIRD SESSION
OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New-York, 29 September 2008

Mr. President

Mr. Secretary General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the outset I would like to congratulate His Excellency Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann for his election in the high and responsible position of the President of the sixty-third session and to pledge our full support and assistance as Vice President of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

Our world is facing major problems and challenges that demand a strengthened and revitalized Organization, capable to address global issues.

From this perspective, the Republic of Moldova fully supports the UN reform process in accordance with the main directions reflected in the *Final Document* of the Millennium Summit (2005), subsequent initiatives of the Secretary General and resolutions adopted on key aspects of the Organization's structures' and management reform.

We stand for strengthening of the ECOSOC's coordinating role in developing global economic and social policies, promoting dialogue and intensifying cooperation with international financial, economic, trade institutions and Governments in attaining Millennium Development Goals, as well as for ECOSOC's involvement in addressing humanitarian crisis situations and issues related to post-conflict reconstruction.

The decision to launch intergovernmental negotiations will bring a new impetus to Security Council reform and shall stimulate and increase the efficiency of UN activities in the field of international security and peace-keeping, including through developing cooperation with regional organizations and member states in identifying solutions to conflicts in different parts of the world.

The events occurred in South Ossetia (Georgia) have proved once again that frozen conflicts generate instability and threaten regional and international security.

The Republic of Moldova subscribed to the European Union Declaration regarding the degradation of the situation in South Ossetia delivered at the extraordinary meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on 8 August 2008 and calls for full implementation of the Peace Plan mediated under the French Presidency of the EU.

At the same time, rejecting categorically all methods of settlement by force, including those of ensuring territorial integrity, the Moldovan Government does not consider however that the international recognition of Abkhazia and Southern Osetia will stabilize the situation.

In the specific case of the Transnistrian conflict, the Republic of Moldova acted and continues to act consequently in accordance with the Law on the Basic Provisions of the Special Legal Statute of the Localities from the Left Bank of the Nistru River adopted unanimously on 22 July 2005 that provides for the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict only by political means.

Considering that demilitarization and democratization of the Transnistrian region constitutes essential premises for a viable resolution of the conflict. The President of the Republic of Moldova has advanced a number of initiatives on confidence building and security between both banks of the Nistru River.

A strategy for the conflict resolution based on a complex approach, “package proposals”, to all conflict related issues: political, economic, social and humanitarian has been adopted.

It envisages a special legal status for the Transnistrian region with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, consolidation of the neutrality statute and withdrawal of foreign troops from the country’s territory, recognition of the ownership rights and provision of solid guarantees for the population.

At the same time the activities of the EU assistance mission on the border of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) and its close cooperation with the relevant institutions from both states in charge of the border management contribute to the increase of security and transparency at the border which creates a more favorable atmosphere for the settlement process of the Transnistrian conflict.

At present our efforts, as well as those of mediators and observers, are directed to resuming negotiations in the 5+2 format in view of the final resolution of the conflict.

Mr. President,

The Review meeting on the assessment of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (4 September 2008) emphasized both the progresses registered by the UN and its member states during the last years and the deficiencies in fighting international terrorism.

In this context I would like to reaffirm that as party to 13 international conventions and other regional and bilateral treaties in this field, the Government of the Republic of Moldova takes concrete steps in fighting terrorism in accordance with the provisions of those instruments, of the relevant Security Council resolutions and national documents, including the National Strategy of Prevention and Fighting Money Laundering and Terrorism Funding.

The Republic of Moldova will further undertake all possible steps for contributing to the UN’s actions in consolidating international legislation in the field of countering international terrorism, especially in view of finalizing development and adoption of

the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and organization of the High Level Conference on Terrorism under the UN auspices.

We consider that in the framework of the above activities increased attention should be given to the issues related to fighting terrorism fueled by separatist tendencies that affect states' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr. President,

Climate change is an inherent challenge of the sustainable development. Global warming and its effects including natural calamities and food and energy crises became major threats for the global population and international security.

After the terrible drought of the last year whose consequences continue to be overcome, the Republic of Moldova was hit this summer by the most serious floods in the last two centuries that affected over 10,000 hectares of agricultural and private lands, destroying hundreds of houses and other buildings and caused damages exceeding 120 million dollars.

We would like to express our gratitude for the assistance provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), other specialized institutions, including UNDP, UNICEF and member states to eliminate consequences of the floods.

The Republic of Moldova fully supports the activity of the High Level Operational Group established and headed by the Secretary General. Development and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for food security in cooperation with relevant UN agencies and Bretton Woods institutions constitutes an important step for overcoming the food crisis.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova undertakes concrete actions in view of reducing the food crises impact on the situation in the country, at present a national agriculture and food security program is being developed.

We consider that the High level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals held on 25 September and organization of the annual meetings on monitoring the engagement and implementation of these goals constitutes new important opportunities for impelling achievement of all internationally accepted development objectives.

Their implementation is still possible in the majority of countries if conjugated actions directed towards concrete results will be established and continuously sustained and developed until the year 2015.

Mr. President,

The progress achieved with the EU support in the implementation of the Moldova-EU Action Plan and adjustment of the national norms to the European standards open new opportunities for the Moldovan-European relations advancement. We highly appreciate constructive cooperation with the European Union in this process and continuously rely on the assistance of its member states in ensuring development and gradual integration of our country into EU.

At the same time we rely on the support and opportunities offered by the UN and member states in view of promoting political, social and economic policies of the country and European integration aspirations, ensuring settlement of the Transdnistrian conflict, withdrawal of foreign military troops and accomplishment of the development priorities of the country.

I would like to reiterate the attachment of the Republic of Moldova to the ideals of the United Nations and the commitment to continuously cooperate with the member states for achieving the important objectives of the Organizations.

Thank you.