



Check against delivery

Statement

by Mr. Gheorghe Leucă, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations on the Report of the Human Rights Council, United Nations General Assembly, New York, 3 November 2010

Mr. President,

The Republic of Moldova associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union and I will add some remarks in my national capacity.

First, I would like to welcome Ambassador Sihasak Phuangketkeow, the President of the Human Rights Council for presenting the Council's Report to the UN General Assembly and to congratulate Ambassador Ivan Simonovic on his assignment as Assistant Secretary General to lead the High Commissioner's Office in New York. Their leadership in managing the complexity of human rights activities and instruments under the UN umbrella is of great importance for the effective realization of the goals of the Council voiced and shared by all the member states.

Mr. President,

The report of the Human Rights Council contained in document A/65/53 reflects the diversity and intricacy of the human rights situations in various states, as well as the multiple and sustained measures undertaken both by governments and the UN system to improve and promote human rights around the world.

The Council has registered considerable progress through thematic resolutions related to torture, human beings trafficking, rights of the child, violence against women, right to education that have a positive impact on the ground. These policies shall be supported by every country and jointly by the international community.

One of the recent accomplishments of the Human Rights Council is the consensual advancement of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training initiated by the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training. We hope that this declaration will serve as an important drive towards the implementation of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and a practical tool for the human rights dissemination and understanding.

Although, since its establishment in 2006, the credibility and capacity of the Council to effectively and unselectively address the human rights issues at the global level was several times subjected to controversial debates, the Human Rights Council has proved its relevance and vital role in promoting the fundamental value of human rights enshrined in the UN Charter. We believe that these discussions should become more constructive and that in the framework of the review process we have to seize a sensible balance between what has been already accomplished and the lacks and limitations we must overcome in order to achieve the commitments articulated in the General Assembly resolution A/60/251.

Mr. President,

As a member of the Human Rights Council, the Republic of Moldova is strongly advocating in favour of the appropriate implementation of the Council's institution-building package adopted in 2007 with the application of new and transformative elements of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, the

Advisory Committee, the Complaints Procedure and the Special Procedure Mechanism. These instruments are essential for the prevention of human rights violations, and for country evaluations and advancement of tailored recommendations. The interactive dialogue with the special rapporteurs concluded yesterday in the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly confirmed the valuable inputs brought by the special procedure mechanism for the protection of human rights and the increasing interest of the member states to cooperate and work closely with the special mandate holders. My country has its own experience of cooperating under the Special Procedures with the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, and on violence against women who visited Moldova in 2008- 2009, upon the invitation of the Government. We are contented that this exercise benefited the Government in assisting to highlight the areas where additional resources, capacity building activities and adoption of relevant laws are required. The commitment of my Government to further increase the cooperation under the special procedures resulted in the extension of the standing invitation to the mandate holders as we entrust their important role for the safeguarding, monitoring and advising on the human rights agenda. In the same vein, we will present the national report under Universal Periodic Review in 2011.

Mr. President,

An important factor of the accurate realization of the special procedures is the requirement to strictly follow the assigned mandates, to rely on the existing instruments and standards in the field of human rights and to pursue the country assessments and reporting in accordance with those directives. This is to ensure that the mechanism does not go beyond the existing regulations and alter the meaning and the aim of the special procedures.

While the special mandate holders' recommendations are important for the streamlining of the human rights protection agenda, it is equally essential to put in place a follow up mechanism for the elaboration of guidelines and for the support of their practical implementation. In this respect, we envisage a close cooperation between the Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist states in upholding human rights, while preserving the independence of the High Commissioner in conformity with its mandate adopted by GA Resolution 48/141.

The implementation of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, as a unique tool of this kind to review the human rights records in each member state, is currently the preeminent state-driven process, where all countries are treated equally, based on objective and consistent reporting information. At the same time, strengthening the UPR mechanism as well as enhancing the High Commissioner's role in building the national capabilities for the implementation of the action oriented recommendations is the key modality to accelerate and improve the functioning of the Council. Accordingly, while assessing the performance of the Council, it is essential to streamline the UPR review sessions to ensure the more constructive and substantial discussions by the member states. Moreover, provided that in 2011 the Council will have reviewed the human rights records of every country, we need to consider measures to help states in implementing the UPR recommendations and the international instruments in the field of human rights through technical assistance, best practices and lessons learned.

In the same line, we consider necessary to generate more synergy between the Council and the UN human rights agencies and instruments in order to avoid duplication of activities and projects in the field. The cohesion of the UN system in this area is a complex exercise but also of a great importance for a strong UN human rights action to meet the expectations of peoples. Therefore, it is our prerogative to encourage all member states to vigorously cooperate in order to ensure that the dialogue established under the UPR mechanism is universal and inclusive for all.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to highlight that as a member of the Human Rights Council, the Republic of Moldova is committed to continue fulfillment of the individual pledges and to do its utmost for the strengthening of this important body and its result-oriented mechanisms, as well as to ascertain its impartiality, objectiveness and universality.

I thank you.