



**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

**STATEMENT**

**by**

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**PRIME MINISTER  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE SEVENTIETH SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**New York, 29 September 2015**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I am most delighted and indeed honoured to represent for the first time my country on this high rostrum and to address the General Assembly at its anniversary session.

At the outset, I would like to extend to you Mr. Mogens Lykketoft our warmest congratulations on your election as President of the 70<sup>th</sup> session.

**Mr. President,**

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter gives us the opportunity to learn lessons from the past and to reflect on the ways and means we need to face today's and tomorrow's challenges and build together a better future for next generations.

We are all proud that today the UN remains the leader in maintaining peace and security, promoting sustainable development and human rights.

The Organization also durably stays at the core of the effective multilateralism and the prominent confirmation of this is the Outcome document of the UN Summit on the adoption of the post-2015 Development Agenda, held a few days ago here in New York.

I have a great pleasure to highlight in this respect that throughout the entire preparatory process and during the Summit the Republic of Moldova has advocated for the adoption of the new Development Roadmap that concerns the present and the future of our planet.

The integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars in the new framework agenda is the key to an old issue that the UN has debated on along the years, about the essence of sustainable development and how to put it in practice. And now we are finally there with the only chance in our hands to drive the humanity in the right direction.

With the new Agenda 2030, the UN and its member states are engaging in an advanced model of sustainable development for humanity that will address poverty, inequality and combat climate change.

We support the UN and member States initiatives and actions directed to addressing climate change through ambitious measures to promote clean power at national and international levels. We believe if everyone put their shoulders to the wheel, we would be more likely to reach the targets and create a better world.

The Republic of Moldova brings its own contribution to the effort. The sustainable development goals make an important chapter in the governing program for the next years. Among many of our endeavors, we aim at increasing the ratio of domestic renewable energy consumption to 20% by 2020 and promoting green economy.

My country is on track to ratify the Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS), which represents a strategic plan to shift to a low carbon economy and achieve sustainable development, based on the socio-economic and development priorities of the country. During the Paris Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Republic of Moldova intends to support the EU's mechanisms for reaching these goals.

Moreover, the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement concluded last year in Brussels along with the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) as its

component part represents the strategic direction which complements our sustainable development efforts.

The EU agenda and the UN commitments go hand in hand and embody our affiliation to the universality of goals and responsibilities for development and peace by way of embracing the European core values and principles and strengthening our partnerships in the region.

Positioned at the gateway between the European market and the Eurasian commercial ties, the Republic of Moldova is looking primarily at strengthening its competitiveness; capitalizing on new trade opportunities and simultaneously fortifying the traditional exchanges based on efficiency and reliability in commercial operations.

After only one year of implementation of this agreement, the results are encouraging and forge ahead our determination to put in place reforms that aim at modernizing our economy, administration and the whole society.

For the first time in the last decade, our exports to the EU are continually sloping upwards and, while we pursue the path of reforms and reduction in the bureaucratic barriers, this trend is likely to increase further with an empowering effect on our economy.

**Mr. President,**

The first anniversary of the Association Agreement with the EU entitles us to assert that the progress achieved in different fields confirms once again the veracity of the choice made by the Republic of Moldova on its way forward - the European integration.

The gradual implementation of the Association Agreement and the creation of the DCFTA zone brought us politically and economically closer to the EU and helped us to advance in the development and modernization of the country and of the Moldovan society in the spirit of the European and universal values - democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, thus making steps forward towards the achievement of the final goal of European integration.

During this relatively short time, we have succeeded in adopting and advancing the implementation of a set of new legislation in various fields, including in social protection of the population, in the judiciary and the prosecution, in the human rights and energy sector, we have also simplified the customs and other bureaucratic procedures and mechanisms for business, all these having a positive impact on the overall situation and development of the country.

Although in view of its positioning and dimensions, the Republic of Moldova does not often manage to influence the international agenda, our migration managing experience gained during implementing the Action Plan for Liberalizing the Visa Regime and the Mobility Partnership allowed us to become inter alia an important voice in the Global Forum for Migration and Development and in the discussions on the UN post-2015 Development Agenda.

Nevertheless, a lot remains to be done. The new Government is firmly committed to further practical realization of the European Agenda and does its best for the continuation of the commenced reforms and for the modernization and democratization of the country.

Accordingly, the renewed Government Programme envisages not only the review of the implementation of outstanding commitments contained in the Association Agreement, but also the deepening of reforms in different fields, especially in the judiciary and prosecution systems, fight against corruption, the stabilization and reform of the financial system.

We are confident that the 2015 legislative plan for fulfilling the commitments assumed through the Association Agreement, recently approved by the Government, will contribute to synchronizing the agendas of the Government and the Parliament and to higher productivity in implementing the Agreement. Reiterating the assumed commitment of the Republic of Moldova

to continuing reforms and bringing the country into the big European family, we are fully opened for a further efficient dialog with our European partners on the implementation of our priorities – the macro-financial stabilization, the reform of the judiciary and prosecution systems, the fight against corruption, and also deepening the reform of the public administration, education and social areas, as well as the consolidation of the cooperation in ensuring energy security and the interconnection of the transport networks.

In the same vein, we welcome the launch of the Project of Annual Cooperation between the Parliament of Moldova and the European Parliament, which is to be implemented this year and envisions the provision of assistance to Moldova's Parliament in adjusting the national legislation to the European one and support for the active participation of women in political life in Moldova.

It is evident that the achieved progress and the subsequent developments are incumbent upon the constant assistance of our development partners, and we are grateful to the European Union and its member states for their continuous financial and technical assistance and for the unprecedented political support.

From the same perspective, in reaching the strategic objectives of the European integration and of the sustainable social-economic development of the country, we also count on the support of all development partners and the UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in this respect the cooperation and assistance programmes with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) being of invaluable importance for my country.

We firmly believe that with the support and assistance of our development partners we will firmly pursue the path of European integration. The European Union does not only constitute a model of political, socio-economic and human development for us, but the increasingly close cooperation with the EU provides the Republic of Moldova with an excellent platform for harmonizing our internal and external strategies and policies, the relations with neighboring and far-away countries and with a way of conducting business based on pragmatism and European standards and values, all these enforcing the visibility of the country and defining and asserting our stance in international affairs, in the region and worldwide.

**Mr. President,**

The world we live in is becoming increasingly turbulent and unsafe. Illegitimate use of military force and other forms of violence are widely used by states and non-state actors as a means to promote their interests. Gross violations of the international law and dramatic decrease in the trust between the states have already undermined the central pillars of the international system.

Regretfully, after a period of relative stability, the system of security and cooperation in Europe has been seriously shaken. The annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation, in a flagrant violation of the international law and the outbreak of the armed conflict in the eastern regions of the Ukraine have directly defied the international peace and security. These major negative developments brought back to our agenda the fundamental questions: what should be done to restore order and ensure respect for the norms and principles of the international law?

Search for the answer will take time but this exercise is very much needed. In the meantime, it is crucial to bring the military hostilities in the Donbass region of Ukraine to an end. Continuation of the conflict will cause more suffering, more victims and more destroyed infrastructure. There is one simple truth to be kept in mind: *the longer a conflict goes on – the harder it is to find a sustainable solution*. In this respect the Republic of Moldova supports peaceful settlement of the conflict in Donbass in accordance with Minsk agreements and respecting sovereignty and

territorial integrity of the Ukraine. We express our solidarity with the Ukrainian people at this difficult time.

The Republic of Moldova has also gone through a conflict. For over two decades my country has been divided as a result of the Transnistrian conflict. But in spite of the external and domestic challenges the Republic of Moldova will firmly follow the way of peaceful settlement of this conflict. Through restoring trust and promoting dialogue we should move step by step to a comprehensive resolution of the Transnistrian conflict. The viable solution should be based on respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, identifying a special status for the Transnistrian region within the internationally recognized borders of my country. We express hope that all our external partners will undertake united efforts for advancing the conflict resolution process towards this goal.

Resolving a conflict is never easy, but there is no other alternative. The existence of an unresolved conflict affects the development of the Republic of Moldova as well as leaves the population of the Transnistrian region without a clear future. Transnistria remains a significant gap in terms of implementing human rights commitments. Moreover, the regional trade arrangements are also evolving and the scenarios that could lead the Transnistrian region to lose access to preferential regimes should be avoided. For this reasons we consider that the negotiations should be activated in all dimensions of the conflict: *social-economic*, *humanitarian* and most importantly – *political*.

Additionally, we reiterate our firm position with regard to the imperative of withdrawing Russian military forces and ammunitions from the territory of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the constitutional provisions and international commitments. In the same context, we believe that the existing peacekeeping operation has fulfilled its mandate and needs to be transformed into a civilian mission with a relevant international mandate.

**Mr. President,**

In the globalized and dynamic world of today, the lasting peace is inconceivable without uniting global efforts with those undertaken at national and regional level. It cannot be achieved without concerted actions of the entire international community in ensuring international security and stability, preventing conflicts, combating international terrorism and promoting disarmament and non-proliferation. The Republic of Moldova fully supports all measures taken by the United Nations in these fields and pleads for the active participation of all member states in their implementation.

My country which has ratified and has deposited these days the ratification instrument of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to the Secretary General believes that the ATT should not only ensure transparency and accountability in transfers of conventional weapons, but it should also prevent illicit arms trafficking, especially to unrecognized separatist entities. In the context of the dangerous and complex security in the Eastern European region, this is of vital importance.

Being convinced that the security deterioration in our region imposes an effective mechanism of small arms and light weapons control we have also engaged in implementing the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), as well as supporting the UN Security Council resolutions 2117 (2013) and 2220 (2015) on small arms and light weapons. And today, we are pleased to state that during the last three years, with the support of our partners we succeeded in destroying all stocks of cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines.

We also share the international community's concerns about the emergence of the new terrorist threats to our democratic values, human rights and world peace. As a co-sponsor of the UN

Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters, the Republic of Moldova is in favour of the adoption of appropriate measures for its implementation.

In the same vein, apart from the fact that the Republic of Moldova has participated for many years with military observers in the UN peacekeeping operations in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan and Central African Republic, starting from 2014 our country has been contributing to the Multinational Peacekeeping Kosovo Force (KFOR) with a contingent of more than 40 servicemen. During the last year an important progress has also been achieved in cooperating with the EU in the field of common security and defense policy, particularly by participating for the first time in the EU-led crisis management missions and operations, including the EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) in 2014 and the EU Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic in 2015.

Thus, the Republic of Moldova is transitioning from being a security observer and beneficiary to becoming an active participant and contributor to establishing security and building peace and stability in Europe and implicitly, in the world. As a European Union associated state the Republic of Moldova is determined to contribute to the consolidation of the European Union's position as a regional and global actor.

**Mr. President,**

There is no progress and development without respect for human dignity. The human rights are equal for all and the international community should continuously take efforts to bring to an end the escalating human rights violations everywhere in the world.

When humanity is confronted with deepening crises, causing increasing human rights implications and the needs of people are evolving, the UN expertise and independent assessment are crucial. Especially for this reason, the Republic of Moldova welcomes the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights innovative approach to brief Member States on new developments in a prompt manner, which will contribute to strengthening prevention and early warning.

My country stands for a universal respect of the principles of international law and human rights that stems from their indivisibility and interdependence and believes that ensuring the efficient, real and quick reaction mechanisms for the respect and promotion of the fundamental freedoms without any exceptions is of critical importance.

Recognizing the paramount activity of special mandate holders and importance of the treaty bodies system, we are not only of the view that their strengthening will result in better functioning of the entire human rights system. As a country that has streamlined the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Treaty Bodies and regional organizations in the National Human Rights Action Plan, we are also in a position to knowingly confirm the efficiency of this tool for systematic implementation of human rights.

Accordingly, the Republic of Moldova continues to broadly engage with international human rights mechanisms, which positively assist in bringing about change on the ground, in this respect being worth mentioning the currently ongoing extensive assessment process of conducting, with the assistance of the UN and Council of Europe, the independent evaluation of the National Human Rights Action Plan implementation.

**Mr. President,**

The 70th anniversary could and should become an influential incentive for further real reforms, and for the reaffirmation and strengthening the role and work of the United Nations. We welcome and support every concrete effort directed at ensuring the reform of all UN structures, including the General Assembly, its subsidiary bodies, the ECOSOC and the Security Council,

with the purpose of enhancing their efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, transparency and equitable regional representation. In this line, we particularly reiterate previously expressed positions on the imperatives of the allocation of one non-permanent seat in a reformed Security Council to the Eastern European Group of States and of ensuring the equitable regional rotation in the process of the election of the UN Secretary General, by entrusting for the first time the highest position of the UN secretariat to the national coming from an Eastern European country.

Finally, Mr. President, having this privilege of congratulating the entire United Nations family with the 70th Anniversary of the Organization we express our conviction that all Member States will further engage, by uniting efforts and resources, in confronting the new threats and challenges, thus safeguarding peace, humanity and our planet, as the founders of the United Nations urged us to do. Pledging to constructively contribute to the attainment of this noble assignment, my delegation is confident that this anniversary session will lead to the advancement of sustainable peace and development, to the environmental and human rights protection for the benefit of the world.

Thank you.