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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Republic of Moldova

* The annex to the present report is circulated as received

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-sixth session from 31st October to 11 November 2016. The review of the Republic of Moldova was held at the 9th meeting on 4 November 2016. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova was headed by Mr. Vladimir Cebotari, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova. At its 13th meeting held on 8 November 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on the Republic of Moldova.
2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Republic of Moldova: Viet Nam, Côte d'Ivoire and Slovenia.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of the Republic of Moldova:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/MDA/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/MDA/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/MDA/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to the Republic of Moldova through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Delegation stated that the Republic of Moldova (RM) was firmly dedicated to the promotion of human rights and welcomed the UPR as a way to scrutinize the progress of the country in protecting and promoting human rights by relevant stakeholders.
6. The Delegation presented the updates on the ratification by the RM of several international treaties and presented the major developments in the national human rights legal framework as the completion of the second National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) for 2011–2014. The Delegation underlined the Government's intention to promote a new general human rights policy document which will include recommendations from international structures as well as the ones of the present evaluation exercise.
7. Key legal developments included the adoption of the *Law on ensuring equality* which covered all grounds for discrimination and created the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (the Council). The Council adopts decisions on immediate reinstatement of victims of discrimination in their rights and formulates recommendations. In 2014 the Council was provided with powers of an investigating agent for certain categories of administrative offenses.

8. The 2014 *Law on People's Advocate (Ombudsman)* consolidated the capacity of the former Centre for Human Rights; it reduced the number of People's Advocates, modified the appointment procedure (by Parliament, on the basis of public competition) to guarantee transparency and involvement of civil society and had established compliance criteria for candidates.
9. A new *Law on the Governmental Agent* to the ECHR was adopted and it provides for a revised mechanism to observe the ECHR in the RM, regulates the representation before the ECHR and enforcement of the European Court decisions and judgments.
10. The draft Law that regulated the *legal capacity* of the persons with disabilities will ensure compliance with the provisions of art. 12 of CRPD, as it modifies the concept of legal capacity of persons with disabilities by providing the adult person and emancipated person with the possibility to obtain protection in case of decreased personal, physical or mental abilities, to institute a family council, provide for the possibility to appoint a temporary guardian as well as the capacity to represent him/herself in a civil process.
11. The Delegation underlined that new National Mechanism on Prevention of Torture (NMPT) became functional, following the accomplishment of the selection procedure of the members of the Council of NMPT.
12. The Republic of Moldova has taken measures to improve detention conditions, especially by budgeting regular financial means; construction of a new penitentiary to solve the problem of the overcrowding in the penitentiary facilities; promoting the new Strategy for the Development of the Penitentiary System for the years 2016 – 2020.
13. The Delegation further presented the measures taken to ensure the right to education for all. National priorities, particularly, education for children and youth with disabilities, are enshrined in the 2011-2020 Development program of the inclusive education in the RM.
14. Regarding inter-ethnic relations and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the Delegation underlined that the legislation of the RM corresponds to the highest recognized international standards. A new *Strategy on inclusive diversity in the RM (2016-2026)* is being promoted. The Government takes measures in order to promote the official language and ensure training of adults belonging to national minorities.
15. The Delegation underscored that one of the Government prerogatives is to provide the rights to freedom of expression and equal assembly to everyone. A new draft *Law on non-commercial organizations*, aiming at facilitating registration of non-governmental organizations and improving their functioning, should be submitted to the Parliament by the end of 2016.
16. A new initiative to amend the Criminal Code in order to regulate hate crimes is pending examination in the Parliament.
17. The justice sector underwent comprehensive reforms, including new measures improving access to justice to all social categories, embodied in the Action Plan for the implementation of Justice Sector Reform Strategy for years 2011–2016.
18. The judge's selection and performance evaluation systems have been established; an Integrated Electronic Programme for the Management of Court Files and audio recording of hearings is being used by courts. *Law No.79 on reorganization of judicial system* will ensure accessibility through court optimization that will enhance courts' capacities, improve the quality of the administration of justice, and create the basis for judges' specialization.
19. Since 2013, a number of legal acts aiming at reforming judges' immunity were adopted, especially with regards to preventing corruption. The 2013 *Law No. 325 on*

professional integrity testing created a new instrument to prevent corruption among public agents.

20. The 2016 *Law on Prosecution Service* reforms the system and creates specialized prosecutions services.

21. The Delegation stated the significant progress made in promoting and ensuring gender equality, both in terms of adapting the legal and institutional framework and in terms of incorporating gender into the national sector policies. The National Programme on Gender Equality 2010-2015 has been implemented; the new 2017-2021 Strategy on gender equality is at the consultation stage.

22. In April 2016 the Parliament of RM adopted amendments to several legislative acts that oblige political parties to ensure equal rights and opportunities to their members women and men, to respect the minimum rate of representation of 40% for both sexes; media and publicity agencies are required to use non-sexist language and to present images of women and men in terms of equal rights in public and private spheres of life; amendments made to Labour Code include 14 days paternal leave.

23. The Republic of Moldova took measures to harmonize national legal framework for preventing and combating domestic violence to international standards. The Delegation stated that the Government drafted the Presidential Decree for signing the Istanbul Convention.

24. The Delegation presented the updates regarding the protection of rights of the child. A new legal framework for the protection and monitoring of children in difficulty was established in 2013 as well as the standards of social support services to families with children.

25. Specialized entities for minors and human rights were created within Prosecutor Offices. Specialized hearings rooms for minors were created in eight prosecution offices.

26. The Delegation stated that the legislative framework in combating trafficking in human beings (THB) was significantly improved in the last four years. The 2016 *Law on rehabilitation of victims of crimes* creates a proper Governmental mechanism for the rehabilitation of the victims, including for victims of THB and victims of trafficking in children. It will provide for social, physiological assistance and financial compensation to the victims of crimes. Specialized services for victims and potential victims of the THB are nowadays provided by centers of assistance and protection.

27. The Delegation reiterated the importance of UN mechanisms, particularly the UPR and the special mandate holders recalling that the country was visited by four rapporteurs and other five UN high officials on HR. The Delegation reiterated that RM has a standing invitation to all mandate holders.

28. The Delegation informed that the RM has decided to present its candidature for the Human Rights Council for the term 2020 – 2022.

29. The Delegation stated that the Republic of Moldova was fully committed to the idea of European integration, guided by the Association Agreement with the European Union. The EU – Moldova Human Rights Dialogue holds its meetings in an enlarged format with the participation of OSCE and CoE and serves, also as a platform for the active and transparent participation of civil society in tackling issues pertaining to the human rights and freedoms.

30. The Delegation stated that there were further difficulties in engaging in a constructive dialogue with the Transnistrian region on different human rights matters due to reasons beyond the control of the Moldovan authorities. The central Government is committed to identify the possibilities to implement the Hammarberg Report's recommendations.

31. The Delegation stated that the Republic of Moldova was fully engaged to continue its efforts in promoting HR policies in the social sectors that still lacks in evolution and require full dedication. The Government highly appreciates the engagement of the civil society and considers it as an active partner and evaluator in implementing human rights policies.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

32. During the interactive dialogue, 75 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

33. Norway was concerned about prison conditions and reports of police mistreatment and torture. It noted that judicial independence remained a challenge and that increased transparency was essential to reduce corruption. Norway noted reports of journalist self-censorship from fear of reprisals.

34. Pakistan welcomed the ratification of human rights instruments, the enactment of domestic laws, the adoption of the strategy on inclusive diversity and the action plan for the Roma people. It appreciated the work of the National Councils for Persons with Disabilities and for Children.

35. Panama praised the efforts to strengthen its regulatory and institutional human rights framework and its measures to tackle statelessness, trafficking in persons and violence against women. It was concerned about the deep ethnic, religious, linguistic and gender divisions in the country.

36. Paraguay referred to the legislation on the office of the Ombudsman and on equality, and that discrimination had been criminalized. It also welcomed efforts to address minority rights and the issues of statelessness and national languages.

37. Peru welcomed the adoption of the National Plan of Action on the Inclusion of the Roma and its adoption of the Inclusive Diversity Strategy.

38. The Philippines was concerned about the suspension of the ratification of the ICMRW and other human rights treaties. It urged the government to promote effective access to education and combat absenteeism and school drop-out among Roma children, especially girls.

39. Poland acknowledged the efforts to comply with the recommendations accepted during the first UPR cycle.

40. Portugal praised the fight against corruption, particularly in the justice sector. It welcomed its strengthening of the legislative framework and practice in combatting torture.

41. Qatar acknowledged the fight against trafficking and child exploitation through the adoption of national strategies. It welcomed efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, while asking that support be given to their families.

42. The Republic of Korea commended the establishment of the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality and the adoption of the law on equality. It noted progress in combatting judicial corruption through the Justice Sector Reform Strategy 2011-2016.

43. Romania appreciated the good organization of the first round of the presidential elections, as assessed by the international observation mission.

44. The Russian Federation noted the inadequate representation of ethnic minorities in government bodies and was concerned by the trend away from using Russian as a language of interethnic communication.

45. Serbia welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan as well as a mechanism to monitor its implementation. It commended welcomed the adoption of child protection legislation and an implementation strategy.
46. Sierra Leone commended the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2020 and the Government Strategy on Child Protection 2014-2020. It indicated that further efforts could be undertaken to ensure participation of the Roma in decision-making processes and encouraged the government to implement the National Action Plan for the Roma 2016-2020.
47. Slovenia commended progress achieved since the last review, while at the same time stressing that accepted recommendations still remained to be fully implemented. It noted root causes of domestic violence, such as gender inequalities and economic issues, had not been fully addressed.
48. Slovakia welcomed the legal recognition of the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive complaints about alleged victims of human rights violations. It encouraged the government to fully implement laws aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and noted shortcomings in the Law on Equality.
49. Spain congratulated the progress achieved in the promotion and protection of human rights. It expressed concern at the lack of political will in combating violence against women and domestic violence.
50. Sudan commended achievements since the first UPR cycle review, namely the reform of the legal and institutional framework. Sudan noted with appreciation the establishment of a comprehensive diversity strategy through the support of OSCE Commissioner on national Minorities and technical assistance of Council of Europe.
51. Sweden noted with concern that domestic and sexual violence was still widespread and was closely linked to gender inequalities and gender stereotypes. It noted reports that very few cases of abuse were reported.
52. Switzerland noted with appreciation the recent establishment of emergency protection orders, which could be quickly emitted by police officers.
53. Tajikistan welcomed the steps undertaken for effective implementation of the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, through the ratification of international treaties and the improvement of national legislation. It commended measures taken to enhance discrimination policies and equality.
54. Thailand welcomed the progress made in the strengthening of the human rights infrastructure, particularly the passage of the Law on People's Advocate, or the Ombudsman, in 2014 and the commitment to develop a new national human rights action plan.
55. Timor-Leste welcomed the creation of the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of discrimination and Ensuring Equality and the development of the Manual on Anti-Discrimination for judges. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation the adoption of several anti-corruption laws.
56. Tunisia noted with appreciation the revised National Action Plan on Human Rights. It welcomed the development of a national strategy for the protection of children for 2014-2020. Tunisia asked for information on the mechanisms created to deal with hate crimes, harassment and racially motivated discrimination.
57. Turkey it commended the achievement in the areas of education, rights of the child, gender equality and justice reform. Turkey encouraged a similarly encompassing approach in the development of the new National Human Rights Action Plan.

58. In its response the delegation from the Republic of Moldova reiterated its commitment to implement the new human rights action plan that is being drafted and that will include all the recommendations received in UPR.

59. Regarding the selection appointment and promoting of judges, the Delegation informed that a new mechanism has been put in place and only 4 % of the appointments raise concerns. The criterion that is the cause of the concerns will be revised. Amendments to Constitution, having the positive endorsement of the Constitutional Court are pending to be approved by the Parliament. The composition of the Superior Council of the Magistrates will now include the Prosecutor General; the term of the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court will be extended.

60. On the minority related questions, the Delegation informed about the 2011- 2015 Action Plan on Supporting Roma Population, and the one for 2016 – 2020. As a result of implementing the first plan, the institution of community mediator was created. For the first time with the UN Women support, two Roma women were elected in local councils and seven women were on the electoral party lists. Education is an important element, so schools are functioning under special supervision in all densely populated areas. The priorities are: continue to take measures for Roma integration, incentivize cooperation with state authorities, fighting discrimination.

61. The Government, together with ethno-cultural national minorities' organizations and international experts, drafted the *Concept on Integrating Ethnic Minorities*, scheduled to be approved by the end of 2016.

62. On the issue on violence against women, the Parliament approved amendments to a set of laws that cover the expansion of the spectrum of rights of domestic violence victims and improvement of victim protection mechanism; expanding the circle of subjects referred to as "family member"; the setup of a 24/7 free phone counselling service.

63. The Delegation also informed about a first draft of the Strategy on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

64. The Moldovan Government approved the National Strategy on Child Protection 2014 - 2020 and the Action Plan 2016 – 2020, focused on ensuring the necessary conditions for growth and education in family environment; prevention and fight against violence, neglect and exploitation; promotion of non-violent practices in growth and education. The de-institutionalization of children remained a priority.

65. Turkmenistan welcomed the efforts to strengthen the legislative, institutional and policy mechanisms for the protection of human rights. It commended the country for the adoption of the Law on Youth and for aligning its national laws with its international treaty obligations.

66. Ukraine commended the strengthening of the legislative framework and practice in combatting torture and for its implementation of the National Human Rights Plan 2011-2014. It noted that an improved, fully independent judicial system was crucial to protecting and promoting human rights in all areas.

67. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged the government to undertake reforms for the protection of vulnerable groups, further progress in addressing violence against women, and strengthening of unity between all ethnic and cultural groups. It encouraged aligning national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

68. The United States of America noted recent reform laws, including those on prosecution and judicial independence, but was concerned about deficiencies in the justice sector, which harmed efforts to combat human trafficking, domestic violence and hate

crimes. It urged continued efforts to protect the rights of individuals including LGBTI persons.

69. Uruguay welcomed the establishment of a National Human Rights Action Plan. It was concerned about complaints of torture and ill-treatment and urged the government to fully comply with the provisions of CAT.

70. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the enactment of the Law to Guarantee Equality, which covers all forms of discrimination. It noted that the Plan of Action for Support of the Roma Population maintained the commitment to promote social inclusion for the Roma.

71. Afghanistan valued the endeavours to implement the recommendations received during the first UPR cycle and commended it for ratifying international human rights instruments.

72. Albania commended the revision of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2011-2014, and the ratification of ICERD and the CAT.

73. Algeria commended the appointment of an Ombudsman, the National Human Rights Action Plan and the Plan for Justice Sector Reform. It encouraged the government to ratify the ICRMW.

74. Argentina highlighted the approval of a strategy for Child Protection 2014-2020, which included preventing and combatting violence against children. It regretted the lack of progress in ratifying international human rights conventions since the first UPR review.

75. Armenia welcomed the adoption of policies and legislative measures to promote the rights of national minorities and the universal right to education. It noted the law on the rehabilitation of victims of crimes, aimed at protecting victims of trafficking, and the opening of an emergency placement centre for victims and potential victims of child trafficking.

76. Australia commended the expansion of community-based services, and the training to normalise inclusion of persons with disabilities. It welcomed strong anti-corruption laws and monitoring of detention and psychiatric facilities. It was concerned that Roma people still faced discrimination and that advances in LGBTI rights were fragile.

77. Austria commended efforts to improve conditions in detention but was concerned about insufficient resources for the National Preventive Mechanism and lack of rehabilitation programs for torture victims. It was also concerned about domestic violence and violence against women, lack of access to information and political influence on the media through ownership concentration.

78. Azerbaijan noted that the ratification of the Conventions relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and on the Reduction of Statelessness. It commended the establishment of the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality to protect all those who consider themselves victims of discrimination.

79. Belarus welcomed the Strategy to Ensure Gender Equality. Belarus asked whether the mandate of the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality covered issues of gender equality and how many complaints of this nature the Council had received.

80. Belgium welcomed the National Child Protection Strategy 2014-2020. It was nevertheless concerned that violence against children, including sexual violence, continued.

81. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the establishment of the Council on the Preventing and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality and the adoption of

the Law on Rehabilitation of Victims of Crimes of Trafficking in Human Beings. It asked for more information on rehabilitation programs for victims of trafficking.

82. Brazil welcomed legislative reforms to strengthen criminal sanctions for torture. It appreciated the adoption of Law No. 71 providing for initiatives on gender equality. It encouraged the government to work on its strategy on preventing, investigating and punishing violence against women and domestic violence.

83. Bulgaria supported the call by the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues to promote the linguistic rights of minorities and strengthen unity between population groups. It commended the establishment of the Council on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality and the Strategy on Gender Equality.

84. Canada welcomed legislative steps to support implementation of the Justice Sector reform Strategy and of the National Programme on Gender Equality. It commended the development of legislative approaches to promote equality, the creation of rehabilitation centres for victims of violence and legislation and supporting infrastructure to combat trafficking in persons.

85. Chile noted the adoption of the Law on the Office of the Ombudsman, which sought to guarantee transparency and civil society participation. It also welcomed the adoption of the Law on Ensuring Equality and further action on legislation to combat domestic violence.

86. China commended measures undertaken to protect the rights of minority groups, and the adoption of national strategies on gender equality, child protection and for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. It welcomed the new National Human Rights Action Plan as well as efforts in judicial reform and in combatting corruption and trafficking in persons.

87. Costa Rica raised concerns with the effectiveness of protection measures for victims of domestic and gender-based violence and that relevant regulations were not aligned with the CRPD.

88. Côte d'Ivoire appreciated the adoption of laws on Equality (2012) and the Office of the Ombudsman (2014). It also welcomed the draft law criminalizing offences motivated by prejudice, contempt or hatred and the Plan of Action for the Roma population (2016-2020). It noted that challenges remained in relation to implementing legislation.

89. Croatia welcomed the commitment to establishing a new National Human Rights Action Plan with an accompanying coordination body. It encouraged the government to involve civil society organizations further in promoting and defending the rights of vulnerable groups including the rights of persons with disabilities.

90. The Delegation stated that the new Broadcasting Code, awaiting Parliament approval in final lecture, is a neutral document that will ensure the respect of human rights and the citizens' freedom of choice and will tackle the following issues: concentration of mass-media, eliminating/preventing monopoly on the media market, self-censorship, fights against piracy, manipulation, protection of the information space, countering propaganda that targets social divisions, interethnic tension and racial hatred.

91. The Delegation underlined the progress achieved in setting the legal framework for combating torture and ill treatment. For the first time the Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Enforcement Code were amended in order to incriminate the inhuman or degrading treatment (IDT), along with the existing regulation on torture, and their aggravating circumstances; excluded the possibility to apply amnesty, prescription to criminal punishment in cases of torture, IDT as well as the possibility to apply a more gentle punishment than that stipulated by law. Criminal sanctions for torture were

harshened significantly and regulated expressly the exclusive competence of the prosecutor to prosecute torture cases, IDT, alleged cases or other crimes attributed to policemen, and to special investigating bodies.

92. Regarding THB, the Delegation informed that the Criminal Code lists distinctive offenses for the notions of THB and trafficking in children, the sanctions having been tightened starting 2013, including for perpetrators who are public and international officials and for the final beneficiaries of these illegal deeds; new offenses were foreseen in the Criminal code, i.e. trafficking in human organs and tissues and publicity for selling and purchasing human organs and tissues, in order to comply with the relevant European Convention. A specialized unit was created within Prosecutor General's Office; legal professionals were trained in how to deal with this kind of cases. A new Strategy on preventing and combating trafficking in persons is under consideration.

93. Regarding the LGBT rights, the Delegation informed that implementation of the *Law on ensuring equality* included extensive information campaigns on anti-discrimination policy.

94. Cyprus noted the commitment to draw up a new National Human Rights Action Plan. It encouraged the government to enhance efforts aimed at improving the protection in the law to vulnerable groups of the population, addressing in particular the phenomenon of domestic violence and gender-based assaults in rural areas.

95. Czechia welcomed the delegation and expressed appreciation for its replies to advanced questions.

96. The Dominican Republic welcomed the adoption of the Law on People's Advocate (Ombudsman), the implementation of the recommendations from the first cycle and the National Human Rights Action Plan, and the development of a new plan.

97. El Salvador welcomed progress achieved on human rights, particularly the adoption of a new law on the prosecution service and the law providing for 40% participation share of both sexes in the political and public decision making process, as well as other measures to strengthen the rights of women.

98. Estonia noted efforts to fulfil treaty-body reporting obligations and the adoption of positive steps for the protection of the rights of national minorities, including the latest strategy on inclusive diversity. It regretted the increase of cases of domestic violence and appreciated efforts in this regard.

99. Finland stated that the Law on Ensuring Equality adopted in 2012 was an important step forward. It encouraged the government to continue its efforts to implement the CRPD and the associated national strategy.

100. France welcomed efforts by the authorities to fight against discrimination based on sexual identity and against domestic violence and encouraged the country to continue with reforms aimed at fully protecting human rights.

101. Georgia highlighted the adoption of a number of laws, including the Law on People's Advocate (Ombudsman), and the Strategy on Inclusive Diversity for the period 2016-2020. It noted the government's commitment to developing a new national human rights action plan. Georgia remained concerned with human rights protection in the Transnistrian region.

102. Germany appreciated progress made in preventing torture and bringing perpetrators to justice. It noted that shortcomings still remained and that the justice sector had not yet been fully aligned with international standards.

103. Greece highlighted progress in different areas including the implementation of the Action Plan to support the Roma population 2011-2015 and of the Justice Reform Strategy

2011-2016, and efforts to combat domestic violence under the auspices of the National Programme on Gender Equality 2010-2015.

104. Guatemala noted progress in human rights but expressed concerns about existing divisions in the country based on grounds such as ethnicity, religion, gender, politics, language and income.

105. Hungary appreciated the adoption of the Law on Ensuring Equality in 2012, in line with recommendations received during the first UPR cycle. It supported recommendations by the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture that the national preventive mechanism strengthen the protection of persons who provided information to the Subcommittee.

106. Indonesia commended the reform of the justice sector through the adoption of several laws and the commitment to develop a new strategy on gender equality for 2016-2020, as well to develop a new comprehensive National Action Plan.

107. Iraq commended the legal framework in the area of combatting trafficking in persons and the adoption of the law concerning the rehabilitation of victims. It welcomed the accession to three international instruments in the area of migration. It commended the guarantees given to the right to all to education, including for children and youths with disabilities.

108. Ireland welcomed the government's engagement with the European and International institutions in pursuit of its reform agenda, such as developing the Strategy on Inclusive Diversity. It also welcomed the adoption of legislation on trafficking in human beings though it was concerned about the persistence of trafficking in and from the country.

109. Italy welcomed efforts to implement measures aimed at preventing and combating domestic violence as part of the national family care and support policy. It also welcomed the authorities' commitment to reforming the legislative framework in this area.

110. Japan welcomed the National Programme for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities for the years 2017-2022. It was concerned by the widespread corruption and by the failure to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

111. Kyrgyzstan supported steps taken to protect human rights, particularly the adoption of Law No. 71 and the new Strategy on gender equality for the period 2016-2020.

112. Latvia commended legislative amendments adopted in 2016 to combat violence against women and domestic violence. It encouraged the authorities to expedite the finalization and adoption of a new Human Rights Action Plan.

113. Libya commended the efforts to implement recommendations accepted during the first UPR cycle.

114. The Maldives supported the efforts to strengthen its legislative framework to combat torture. It noted the commitment to create a new National Human Rights Action Plan, which would strengthen the role of stakeholders in implementing human rights policies.

115. Mexico acknowledged progress made in combating discrimination, noting the adoption of the Law on Ensuring Equality and the Action Plan to support the Roma population. It also welcomed efforts to prevent torture, including amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Code of Procedure, and to develop an inclusive and multicultural education system.

116. Montenegro noted efforts to establish a new human rights action plan and coordinating body. It asked for information on activities undertaken to implement legislation to reduce gender inequalities. It encouraged the government to strengthen efforts to promote and defend the rights of stigmatised groups such as the LGBTI, the Roma, persons living with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities.

117. Namibia commended the adoption of the Law on People's Advocate (Ombudsman) in 2014 and the new Action Plan to support the Roma population in 2016, which was a continuity of Moldova's commitment to enhance social inclusion of the Romani. It also welcomed initiatives to reform the justice sector.

118. The Netherlands encouraged broad consultation in the follow-up to the UPR session, including in the development and implementation of its revised National Human Rights Action Plan. It appreciated the reforms in the field of non-discrimination and the judicial system and the new law on the Prosecution Service.

119. The Delegation of the Republic of Moldova informed that after the ratification of the CRPD, the Parliament approved the *Law on social inclusion of persons with disabilities* and the amendments to about 50 documents in order to adjust the legal framework to the Convention and the Law.

120. It concluded by reiterating the commitment to continue efforts to make human rights better understood and accessible to everyone and reduce the number of further issues that may occur. The Government will draft, based on these recommendations and closely working with civil society a new plan on human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

121. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below enjoy the support of Moldova:**

121.1. **Continue its accession to the core international human rights instruments (Azerbaijan);**

121.2. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia, Portugal);**

121.3. **Accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

121.4. **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

121.5. **Fully align national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Cyprus);**

121.6. **Ratify the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Estonia);**

121.7. **Align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including by adopting provisions to cooperate with the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

121.8. **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (Montenegro);**

121.9. **Ratify the Council of Europe convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence, and take necessary**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited

measures to implement this on the ground and take necessary measures to implement this on the ground (Belgium);

121.10. Implement “emergency protection orders” and ratify the Convention of the Council of Europe on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) (Spain);

121.11. Ratify the Convention of the Council of Europe on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) (Sweden);

121.12. Sign and ratify the Convention of the Council of Europe on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Slovenia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina);

121.13. Sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) (Italy);

121.14. Improve the internal mechanism of the State to implement the international human rights obligations (Tajikistan);

121.15. Ensure proper implementation of the legislation on the promotion and protection of the rights, including linguistic rights, of individuals belonging to national minorities (Ukraine);

121.16. Strengthen the provisions of the Criminal Code on gender-based violence (El Salvador);

121.17. Consolidate the normative framework that regulates the activity and competences of the (Equality) Council (Azerbaijan);

121.18. Establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);

121.19. Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Maldives);

121.20. Strengthen the independence of the Ombuds institution including through the revision of the relevant Ombudsman-related legislation (Slovakia);

121.21. Take concrete steps for strengthening the independence of the Ombuds institution (Afghanistan);

121.22. Accelerate its efforts to strengthen the independence of Ombudsman institution (Croatia);

121.23. Ensure compliance of the People’s Advocate Office (Ombudsman) with the Paris Principles (A Status) (Portugal);

121.24. Make available to the Office of the Ombudsman, appropriate means and sufficient financial resources to accomplish its missions (Algeria);

121.25. Reinforce the regulatory and institutional measures of the Ombudsman, in conformity with the Paris Principles (Chile);

121.26. Continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the institutional capacities of the People’s Advocate institution (Georgia);

121.27. Strengthen the existing National Human Rights Institution to be in compliance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

- 121.28. Strengthen legal standing as well as human and financial resources of the national preventive mechanism according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture so that it operates effectively (Czechia);
- 121.29. Ensure that the national preventive mechanism against torture becomes operational at the earliest, in particular by completing the process of recruitment of members of the Council for the Prevention of Torture (Switzerland);
- 121.30. Expedite the process of establishing a mechanism to coordinate and monitor the implementation of a new National Human Rights Action Plan 2017-2020 (Indonesia);
- 121.31. Complete the process of establishment of a new national human rights action plan, (Kyrgyzstan);
- 121.32. Adopt a National Human Rights Action Plan (Georgia);
- 121.33. Continue to implement National Human Rights Action Plan (Pakistan);
- 121.34. Continue strengthening the application of the National Human Rights Action Plan (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 121.35. Fully fund its national human rights action plan (Philippines);
- 121.36. Establish monitoring and coordination mechanism to implement the National humans rights action plan (Sudan);
- 121.37. Adopt the next New National Action Plan on Human Rights, which will serve to further strengthen the human rights policy of the country (Turkmenistan);
- 121.38. Continue to take active measures to combat discrimination, ensure equality and to strengthen the independence of the Ombudsman in order to bring it in compliance with the Paris Principles (Namibia);
- 121.39. Enhance its work to achieve the objectives enshrined in the Action Programme of the Government for 2016–2018 (Dominican Republic);
- 121.40. Continue to implement Strategy on Gender Equality 2016-2020 (Pakistan);
- 121.41. Ensure effective implementation of its National Strategy on Child Protection for 2014-2020 (Serbia);
- 121.42. Take concrete actions in implementing the Law and the 2020 National Strategy on Youth, especially by matching the planned measures with appropriate funding (Turkmenistan);
- 121.43. Continue to cooperate closely with human rights mechanisms and the special procedures (El Salvador);
- 121.44. Implement the comprehensive diversity strategy for 2016-2026 (Sudan);
- 121.45. Continue efforts aimed at combatting all forms and manifestations of hatred and discrimination, including hate crimes and hate speech on religious basis and strengthen mechanisms for accountability on this regard (Libya);
- 121.46. Continue efforts to combat discrimination and promote the right to education and the rights of women (Dominican Republic);

- 121.47. Continue to take effective measures to promote gender equality (China);
- 121.48. Strengthen its national policy for gender equity and equality (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 121.49. Strengthen efforts to effectively implement laws aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women (Cyprus);
- 121.50. Guarantee the implementation and effective application of legislation to eliminate discrimination against women, in order to mitigate the structural disadvantages which stand in the way of gender-equality (Guatemala);
- 121.51. Take additional measures to achieve the gender equality, including specific measures to eliminate gender discrimination and gender-based violence (Kyrgyzstan);
- 121.52. Take measures to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of existing legislation, with a view to reducing structural disadvantages that hamper the effective realization of substantive gender equality, in line with the recommendation by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Namibia);
- 121.53. Ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of existing legislation with a view to reducing structural disadvantages that hamper the effective realisation of substantive gender equality (Slovakia);
- 121.54. Strengthen on-going efforts to all forms of discrimination against women and girls, including by effectively implementing and enforcing existing legislation in order to address stereotypes (Turkey);
- 121.55. Ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the legislations on reducing and elimination of discrimination against women (Afghanistan);
- 121.56. Elaborate campaigns and trainings which promote economic and political empowerment of women, as well as educational programs that combat stereotypes and gender discrimination from an early age (Costa Rica);
- 121.57. Encourage young women to choose non-traditional fields of study and professions (Hungary);
- 121.58. Continue its efforts to eliminate all forms of sex and gender-based discrimination throughout the educational system (Timor-Leste);
- 121.59. Redouble its efforts to put an end to stereotypes and to gender-based discrimination in the educational system (Panama);
- 121.60. Develop policies that allow Moldova to combat incitement to hatred and racial discrimination (Panama);
- 121.61. Ensure the collection of statistical data on incidents of anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racial discrimination (Russian Federation);
- 121.62. Establish efficient mechanisms to investigate and punish hate crimes, racial harassment and racial discrimination against minorities and vulnerable groups (Albania);
- 121.63. Increase professional training and adopt guidelines for improving the conduct of police, prosecution, and courts in investigating bias-motivated crimes and cases of domestic violence (United States of America);

- 121.64. Establish clear legislation criminalising hate crimes and ensure all incidents of religious hate speech are investigated (Sierra Leone);
- 121.65. To swiftly adopt and implement the *Strategy on Inclusive Diversity in the Republic of Moldova (2016-2020)*, which was developed with the support of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Netherlands);
- 121.66. Establish mechanisms to ensure that stigmatization and discrimination against ethnic minorities are eradicated from the public and private sectors, including through training and awareness raising of public officials, their accountability, and mechanisms providing reparations for affected persons (Mexico);
- 121.67. Further strengthen measures aimed at combating discriminatory practices towards minorities, in particular the Roma community (Brazil);
- 121.68. Ensure that no acts of violence, intimidation, torture or discrimination are carried out against LGBTI persons (Mexico);
- 121.69. Further effective actuation of public authorities to protect the LGBT community from discrimination (Spain);
- 121.70. Strengthen support for LGBTI rights and address the barriers to full participation in daily life (Australia);
- 121.71. Continue reinforcing the normative framework in order to combat all forms of discrimination, including those on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);
- 121.72. Duly investigate the crimes of hate and discrimination, among them, the most recent acts committed against the LGBTI community (Uruguay);
- 121.73. Step up efforts to investigate and act upon instances of hate speech and hate crime and to ensure effective access to justice for victims, including LGBTI persons and members of religious or ethnic minority communities (Netherlands);
- 121.74. Continue efforts to strengthen the legal framework to combat torture, which proved to be successful in reducing the number of complaints (Iraq);
- 121.75. Strengthen its measures to prevent torture and address the impunity of such acts (Japan);
- 121.76. Improve the conditions of detention in police stations and prisons and effectively investigate credible allegations of abuse, consistent with the UN Convention Against Torture (United States of America);
- 121.77. Take additional measures to strengthen the fight against torture and other ill-treatment, and the fight against impunity, by ensuring that all complaints of torture are subject to an impartial and effective investigation (France);
- 121.78. Ensure that all complaints regarding acts of torture and ill-treatment receive a prompt, impartial and effective investigation in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol and ensure that, in conformity with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, any statement made as a result of torture shall not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings (Germany);

- 121.79. Take further measures to improve the treatment of persons arrested, detained or imprisoned, including by strengthening the National Preventive Mechanism (Norway);
- 121.80. Provide torture-prevention training for the police, prosecutors and judges and ensure that statements obtained through torture cannot be invoked in criminal proceedings (Czechia);
- 121.81. Improve the situation of prisoners in the country, implementing the recommendations made by European Committee for the prevention of torture after his visit in September 2015, such as reducing the levels of violence and to decrease rates of overcrowding in multiple cells (Spain);
- 121.82. Continue efforts to improve conditions in prisons and pre-trial facilities (Australia);
- 121.83. Ensure that policies and services relating to mental health treatment and psychiatric institutions comply with international human rights law (Brazil);
- 121.84. Improve access to medical, psycho-social and mental health services for all persons in detention, especially for those belonging to vulnerable groups (Austria);
- 121.85. Enhance measures for the prevention, punishment and eradication of all forms of violence against women, including measures to promote their rights and to eliminate patriarchal and discriminatory stereotypes (Mexico);
- 121.86. Continue public awareness campaigns on domestic violence and the introduction of specific rape prevention programs (Australia);
- 121.87. Create a comprehensive policy about violence against women and especially domestic violence that prevents, punishes, and eradicates these issues, especially in rural areas (Slovenia);
- 121.88. Establish measures to strengthen the fight against domestic violence (Paraguay);
- 121.89. Continue harmonisation of his legislation with norms of the Council of Europe in the area of preventing and combating violence against women, included domestic violence and ensure the effective implementation of legislation (Switzerland);
- 121.90. Take advantage of measures to prevent and combat domestic violence (Algeria);
- 121.91. Improve and expand the capacity and coverage of domestic violence shelters as well as rehabilitation centres for domestic violence victims, especially in rural areas (Austria);
- 121.92. Speed up preparation of the strategy on the prevention and suppression of violence against women and violence in the family (Belarus);
- 121.93. Continue to develop a policy framework and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat domestic violence that includes education and public awareness for rural areas, strengthened mechanisms to hold offenders to account, and enhanced training for law enforcement officials (Canada);
- 121.94. Accelerate the adoption of the norms related to the prevention and combat of domestic violence and elaborate coordinated policies in order to

prevent and combat domestic and sexual violence, including support mechanisms and norms for the protection of victims (Chile);

121.95. Implement effective mechanisms to prevent and sanction domestic and gender violence, including legal and psychological assistance for victims (Costa Rica);

121.96. Evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of laws safeguarding women's rights and providing protection against domestic and gender-based violence and ensure that measures such as protection orders and the punishment for their breach or swift access of victims to justice are systematically applied and that shelters for victims of domestic violence, including in rural areas, are readily available (Czechia);

121.97. Take steps to more effectively prevent and prosecute cases of violence against women, including domestic violence, and to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of existing legislation in this regard (Estonia);

121.98. Plan concrete actions which could be done to improve protection of and support to victims of domestic as well as to ensure that legal aid is available to all victims of violence in order to ensure comprehensive approach to domestic violence (Slovenia);

121.99. Train law enforcement, judiciary, prosecutors, health care and social workers on responding to domestic violence (Slovenia);

121.100. Ensure adequate legal and social protection for women and girls subjected to gender-based violence (Poland);

121.101. Fully implement the recommendations from the first Universal Periodic Review cycle still pending, namely those regarding the strengthening of the Criminal Code provisions against gender-based violence and hate crime (Portugal);

121.102. Pursue the undergoing work of revision and improvement of the Criminal Code to be amended regarding provisions against gender-based violence and hate crime (Portugal);

121.103. Take concrete measures to eliminate violence against children, protect and support victims including by implementing measures to ensure that such abuse is more frequently denounced and reported by different stakeholders in contact with children (Belgium);

121.104. Create mechanisms for preventing and fighting against all forms of exploitation, abuse and violence against children (Bulgaria);

121.105. Redouble its efforts to eradicate child labour and all forms of exploitation, abuse and violence against children (Panama);

121.106. Further address the elimination of violence against children, including sexual violence (Kyrgyzstan);

121.107. Undertake efforts to prevent violence against children, including sexual violence (Poland);

121.108. Develop far-reaching and coordinated policies in order to protect minors against potential offenders and continue existing efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and new forms of online trafficking (Qatar 2);

121.109. Promote the National plan to end human trafficking namely new forms on line human trafficking (Sudan);

- 121.110. Continue to intensify efforts to stopping human trafficking (Tajikistan);
- 121.111. Continue and further enhance the measures to combat human trafficking (Armenia);
- 121.112. Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 121.113. Reinforce efforts for women and girls subjected to trafficking (Greece);
- 121.114. Further strengthen public institutions to combat trafficking in persons, through dedicated resources, enhanced cooperation with civil society, and incorporating best practices (Canada);
- 121.115. Implement further measures to improve its investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases and enhance the legal and social protection of victims of human trafficking (Ireland);
- 121.116. Continue to ensure legal protection for women and girls subjected to gender-based violence and trafficking (Maldives);
- 121.117. Enhance the adoption and implementation of measures to fight domestic violence against women and to protect the victims of domestic violence (Italy);
- 121.118. Implement reforms in the rule of law sphere to ensure fairness and due process, combat corruption, and improve transparency throughout the legal process (United States of America);
- 121.119. Take measures to improve the procedure of appointment, transfer and promotion of judges in order to provide transparency in the judicial system and that the selection of judges is based on merit and not on the discretion of the Supreme Council of Magistracy (Norway);
- 121.120. Continue to implement the Justice Sector Reform Strategy with a view to further strengthening the independence, accountability and transparency of the judiciary (Republic of Korea);
- 121.121. Continue the efforts to implement the judicial sector reform (Sudan);
- 121.122. Continue the justice reform process by working out a Justice Sector Reform Strategy for the period after 2016 (Ukraine);
- 121.123. Enhance the independence of the judiciary and strengthen rule of law through anti-corruption initiatives, increased transparency in the justice sector, and the elimination of external influence in judicial proceedings (Canada);
- 121.124. Continue developing the strategy and normative complementary measures, which ensure the continuity in the reform of the judicial sector (Chile);
- 121.125. Ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, in particular by fighting corruption, and enable victims to defend their rights in court, by taking measures to strengthen respect for the rights of the defense and transparency of judicial proceedings (France);
- 121.126. Fully implement the Justice Sector Reform Strategy to increase judicial independence and effectiveness (Germany);

- 121.127. Carry out necessary reforms to strengthen the rule of law to prevent political interference in the justice system and to tackle corruption at all levels (Japan);
- 121.128. Strengthen the judiciary and law enforcement for a more effective investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases (Thailand);
- 121.129. Continue the efforts to eliminate corruption through access to public information (Peru);
- 121.130. Continue efforts to guarantee freedom of religion and freedom of belief without discrimination or without legal preferences (Paraguay);
- 121.131. Continue efforts to ensure an enabling environment for journalists (Latvia);
- 121.132. Continue to support the work of civil society especially the work of the human rights and journalists organisations (Peru);
- 121.133. Continue the dialogue and substantive cooperation with human rights NGOs, in particular those involved in protecting human rights defenders (Romania);
- 121.134. Secure a safe environment for human rights defenders who support torture victims and ensure that there is sufficient support for civil society organisations working in the field of rehabilitation of torture victims (Austria);
- 121.135. Support the work of human rights defenders and other representatives of civil society; acknowledge their contribution to the advancement of human rights in the country; thoroughly and promptly investigate threats, attacks, harassment and intimidation against human rights defenders or independent journalists; bring their perpetrators to justice in fair trials and ensure effective remedies to the victims (Poland);
- 121.136. Recognize explicitly the legitimacy of the job done by human rights defenders and ensure that their work is carried out in a safe and enabling environment, without fear of reprisals, intimidations or acts of violence, which should be sanctioned, and those responsible be taken before justice (Uruguay);
- 121.137. Create a safe, favourable environment for human rights defenders; a framework where human rights can be defended without fearing reprisals or intimidation in line with the international obligations of Moldova, in particular as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- 121.138. Ensure strengthening the freedom of expression online and offline, as well as personal data protection (Bulgaria);
- 121.139. Take necessary measures to reduce excessive concentration of media ownership, and developing a new regulatory framework for the creation of new media and operation of existing ones, in order to ensure genuine freedom of expression (Spain);
- 121.140. Ensure media plurality and independence and to take into account the opinions received from the OSCE and the Council of Europe, as well as from civil society, when adopting a new audio-visual code (Sweden);
- 121.141. Adopt comprehensive national legislation in order to facilitate access to information, foster media pluralism and protect independent media (Austria);

- 121.142. **Guarantee fully freedom of expression and information by combating the formation of monopolies and ensuring respect for media pluralism (France);**
- 121.143. **Adopt comprehensive national legislation such as the new Broadcasting Code in order to ensure media pluralism and protect independent media (Germany);**
- 121.144. **Take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression for all, including the repeal or amendment of all laws restricting the activities, ownership and independence of the media (Ireland);**
- 121.145. **Strengthen women's representation in the Parliament and government (Greece);**
- 121.146. **Take further measures to advance participation of women in decision-making bodies (Latvia);**
- 121.147. **Foster policies that make it possible to reduce youth unemployment rate, through providing opportunities for youth to have work, as well as avoiding stigmatisation of people with disabilities and those coming, in the world of work from national minorities (Paraguay);**
- 121.148. **Continue strengthening its social policies in favour of the most vulnerable sectors of its people, with emphasis on national minorities (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**
- 121.149. **Promote steady economic development to further improve living standards of its people (China);**
- 121.150. **Continue to make efforts to combat extreme poverty (El Salvador);**
- 121.151. **Expand programs of targeted social assistance to provide the population with education and medical services (Belarus);**
- 121.152. **Improve the operational and financial performance of water supply enterprises to increase water safety and quality (Germany);**
- 121.153. **Strengthen the fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination within the education system (Hungary);**
- 121.154. **Boost the approval of the legislation oriented to guarantee the autonomy of people with disabilities to improve their social inclusion (Costa Rica);**
- 121.155. **Continue to strengthen policies on ensuring opportunity of enrolment in education for children and young people with disabilities (Libya);**
- 121.156. **Eliminate barriers preventing access of children with disabilities to the education system (Hungary);**
- 121.157. **Adopt positive measures to enable people with disabilities and national minorities to have access to education, health services and an adequate standard of living (Panama);**
- 121.158. **Support the role of the family in protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, and accelerate the implementation of the necessary legal conditions for the realization of their rights in services and public places (Qatar 1);**

- 121.159. **Protect the human rights of persons with disabilities to ensure full access of those rights for all, in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Maldives);**
- 121.160. **Enhance the legal framework on the social inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities while promoting relevant awareness-raising activities (Turkey);**
- 121.161. **Continue adopting measures that contribute to the protection and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly in what refers to the provision of social services (Argentina);**
- 121.162. **Ensure the right of persons with disabilities to live independently through the development of a national action plan for deinstitutionalization and for the inclusion of persons with disabilities into their communities (Finland);**
- 121.163. **Adopt a OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities - compliant strategy on national minorities as soon as possible, in order to clearly affirm Moldova's commitment to national minorities rights (Germany);**
- 121.164. **Further promote the rights of minorities, such as by introducing multilingual education, and maintain social harmony and unity among various groups in the society (Thailand);**
- 121.165. **Further develop the policy in the field of preservation and development of cultural identity of persons belonging to national minorities and ethnic groups (Bulgaria);**
- 121.166. **Guarantee to the persons belonging to minorities, their rights to use their language and practise their religion (Peru);**
- 121.167. **Implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues to promote linguistic rights of minorities and to take the necessary measures to guarantee quality education in both mother tongue and State language (Hungary);**
- 121.168. **Continue to establish mechanisms to end discriminations towards the Roma community (Timor-Leste);**
- 121.169. **Promote greater public appreciation for the importance of according equal rights for the Roma (Australia);**
- 121.170. **Prop up efforts for social inclusion of the Roma population (Greece);**
- 121.171. **Guarantee access to public and political life on an equal basis to the Roma and this through their participation in the decision-making processes (Peru);**
- 121.172. **Continue undertaking measures aimed at ensuring the inclusion of Roma representatives in public and political life, as well as implementing the National Action Plan for Roma (2016-2020) (Serbia);**
- 121.173. **Continue to work on the promotion of human rights in the region of Transnistria, integral part of the territory of the Republic of Moldova (Romania);**
- 121.174. **Provide systematic support and assistance to victims of human rights abuses in Transnistria (Czechia);**
- 121.175. **Take appropriate steps to initiate the elaboration of monitoring mechanism of human rights situation in the Transnistrian region of the**

Republic of Moldova with the involvement of civil society representatives from both banks of the river Nistru (Georgia).

122. The following recommendations will be examined by Moldova which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2017:

- 122.1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and accept its investigation procedure and its communications procedure between States (Uruguay);
- 122.2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);
- 122.3. Continue the process towards the ratification of the ICRMW and ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);
- 122.4. Ratify the ICRMW (Uruguay, Afghanistan);
- 122.5. Ratify, as soon as possible, the ICRMW (Guatemala);
- 122.6. Resume the ratification process of the ICRMW (Turkey);
- 122.7. Ratify the ICRMW, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (El Salvador);
- 122.8. Consider ratifying the ICRMW (Indonesia);
- 122.9. Consider ratifying ICRMW, Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Albania);
- 122.10. Ratify ICPED as no country is free from cases of enforced disappearance (Slovakia);
- 122.11. Ratify the ICPED (Uruguay, Montenegro);
- 122.12. Ratify as soon as possible the ICPED, a major instrument in the fight against impunity, and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (France);
- 122.13. Ratify and accede to the ICPED and the ICRMW (Sierra Leone);
- 122.14. Ratify ICPED as well as the remaining human rights treaties to which it is still not Party (Argentina);
- 122.15. Finalise the ratification of the ICPED (Iraq);
- 122.16. Ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);
- 122.17. Amend the Law on Equality in order to widen the list of possible discrimination criteria (Slovakia);
- 122.18. Amend Article 1 of the Law on Ensuring Equality by including criteria such a social origin, marital situation, health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in the main list of criteria for categories to be protected from discrimination (Sweden);
- 122.19. Include in the Law on Equality four protected criteria – namely social origin, material situation, sexual orientation and health status (Croatia);

122.20. Review and amend relevant legislation, such as the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Offences, to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTI persons and of individuals belonging to vulnerable, minority populations, including religious communities and ethnic minorities, as well as amend Article 1 of the Law on Ensuring Equality to include sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);

122.21. Adopt the draft law on amending and completing the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Offences with regard to bias-motivated crimes and incidents to also include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as ground for hate crimes (Sweden);

122.22. Adopt a legislative framework that ensures protection against all offences motivated by hatred and prejudice (Côte d'Ivoire);

122.23. Complete the process of establishment a coordinating body under the auspices of Prime Minister's Office to monitor and report progress on human rights (Kyrgyzstan);

122.24. Enhance the implementation of the Law on Ensuring Equality by strengthening the mandate of the Equality Council, including by allowing it to issue binding recommendations and sanction discrimination, as well as by increasing awareness-raising through education (Finland);

122.25. Fully implement recommendations made by the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination to better ensure the protection against discrimination and equality of all persons (Republic of Korea);

122.26. Adopt measures to ensure protection from torture and forced hospitalisation and medication in psychiatric institutions (Portugal);

122.27. Implement legislation to abolish and effectively combat early and child marriage (Sierra Leone);

122.28. Take concrete measures to address the issue of self-censorship among Moldovan journalists, limit media ownership concentration and ensure media pluralism (Norway);

122.29. Step up efforts to improve free medical facilities, reduce high infant mortality rates and high teenage pregnancy rates (Greece);

122.30. End discrimination of people with intellectual and psychological disabilities and implement tools to encourage their employment (Croatia);

122.31. Effectively guarantee the rights of migrants (China).

123. Moldova considers that the recommendations below cannot be accepted and would thus be noted:

123.1. Ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

123.2. Develop a global strategy to address existing divisions covering all sectors, to overcome all discriminatory practices (Guatemala);

123.3. Carry out a careful investigation into incidents of unwarranted use of force by law enforcement bodies in response to protests by the opposition during the celebration on 27 August 2016 of the Independence Day in Chişinău (Russian Federation).

124. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova was headed by Mr. Vladimir Cebotari, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Lilian Darii, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration;
 - Mr. Tudor Ulianoschi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
 - Mr. Sergiu Mihov, Head of the Human Rights and Global Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration;
 - Mrs. Stela Braniște, Head of the Department for International Relations and European Integration, Ministry of Justice;
 - Mr. Alexandru Cladco, Head of the Department for International Cooperation and European Integration, General Prosecutor's Office;
 - Mrs. Lilia Pascal, Head of the Department for Gender Policies, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family;
 - Mr. Oleg Babenco, Director General of the Bureau for Interethnic Relations;
 - Mr. Alin Gvidiani, Deputy Head of the Bureau for Reintegration;
 - Mr. Adrei Șvet, Head of the Legal Department, Ministry of Health;
 - Mr. Dragoș Vicol, Member of the Audiovisual Council;
 - Mr. Marin Cebotari, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
 - Ms. Cristina Cerevate, Second Secretary in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office in Geneva.
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