

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



STATEMENT

BY

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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION
OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 60th Session of the General Assembly. My delegation is confident that your knowledge and vast professional experience will assure a strong and competent leadership to this august body at a time when it is much needed.

Let me also pay a well deserved tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Jean Ping, whose tireless efforts and subtle management guided the member states through difficult negotiations that resulted in the adoption of the Outcome document of the High Level Plenary Meeting.

The success of this historic gathering is also due to the bold vision and leadership of the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, whose report "In larger freedom" provided an excellent basis for discussions in the run up to the Summit.

Mr. President,

A few days ago, speaking from this high rostrum, the President of the Republic of Moldova Vladimir Voronin reaffirmed my country's unwavering support to the United Nations and its commitment to work together with other member states towards the renewal and the strengthening of the UN system. We need an effective United Nations Organization, reach in its diversity, unite in its resolve, true to its mission of being the centerpiece of an effective multilateral system, able to address the multifaceted and interconnected challenges and threats confronting the contemporary world.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome provides a fair assessment of the threats and challenges in the areas of peace, security, development and human rights and rightly emphasizes their interconnected nature. Based on this universally shared evaluation, the world leaders agreed on a number of concrete actions and steps that need to be undertaken in all three areas. These measures might not meet everyone's expectations, but they reflect a degree of consensus that is both challenging and inspiring.

Since one of the aims of the World Summit was to assess the process of implementation of the Millennium Declaration, it is heartening to see the strong and unambiguous commitment from donor and developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The measures outlined in the area of financing for development, debt cancellation, trade promotion, investment and other specific areas pertaining to development need to be thoroughly implemented in order to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable economic growth and development. Developed and developing countries must build their declared global partnership for development on the basis of mutual confidence and respect, whereas aid effectiveness and quality are ensured by the balance of appropriate financing and good governance and sound policies.

In the area of peace and security, the Republic of Moldova welcomes the clear condemnation of terrorism and supports the call to conclude and agree the draft of a

Comprehensive Convention on international terrorism, including a legal definition of terrorist acts during the current session of the General Assembly. The Republic of Moldova signed during the 2005 Summit the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which is further indication of our ongoing commitment to contribute to the multilateral efforts aimed at strengthening the United Nations anti-terrorist legal framework.

My country welcomes the decision to create a Peacebuilding Commission as one of the main achievements of the Summit. As conceived, this body has a good potential to bring much needed coherence to strategies of post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery, provided that we succeed in making it operational by the end of this year. The establishment of a multi-year standing Peacebuilding Fund, as well as of a small peacebuilding support office within the Secretariat will be the right steps in this direction.

Unfortunately, the Outcome document pays far less attention to conflict prevention and conflict resolution, especially with regard to internal conflicts. It is well known, that many regional organizations have been entrusted by the UN under the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter to deal with a number of conflicts that are not in the focus of the UN Security Council. But, as the report of the High Level Panel rightly pointed out, the efforts of the regional organizations "do not absolve the United Nations of its primary responsibilities for peace and security". UN needs a more systematic outreach to these regional organizations. Steps should be taken to increase their accountability, particularly in the case of protracted or frozen conflicts, when situation is not improving or even worsens over the years. The lack of progress should trigger more direct involvement from the appropriate UN organs.

We would like to recall also the proposals aimed at enhancing UN capabilities and role in conflict mediation, made by the High Level Panel, but left aside in discussions. One of these proposals is to give the Department of Political Affairs additional resources and to restructure it in order to provide more consistent and professional mediation support. No conflict in the world should be left out of UN's attention, irrespective of whether they are on the Security Council's agenda or not.

As many other member states, we regret the failure to agree a section on non-proliferation and disarmament in the Summit Outcome document. But it must not preclude our further common efforts to build consensus around the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

Equally, the Republic of Moldova is in favor of concrete steps to limit the threat caused by uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons. We appreciate the Outcome document's support for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, but in order to make a real difference, member states should expedite and conclude negotiations on legally binding agreements on the marking and tracing, as well as the brokering and transfer, of small arms and light weapons.

Bearing in mind the centrality of the concept of human rights, integrated throughout the work of the United Nations, the Republic of Moldova fully endorses the commitment to create a Human Rights Council. We look forward to speedy and productive negotiations on the Council's mandate, size, membership and working procedures. We place high expectations on this standing body's ability to protect and even enforce respect for fundamental human rights, especially in the cases of humanitarian crime or conflict zones out of sovereign states' control. My country also supports the decision to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its field offices.

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the international recognition of the "responsibility to protect" concept. The international community should be able to take decisive collective action to stop genocide, war crimes and other crimes against humanity when national authorities are unwilling or unable to do so.

As a country that placed the concepts of democracy and rule of law at the core of its system since gaining independence, the Republic of Moldova welcomes the reaffirmation of democracy as an universal value in the Outcome document and the creation of the new Democracy Fund, as well as the idea of establishing a rule of law assistance unit within the Secretariat.

The success of the UN reform depends on the member states' ability to implement measures leading to the revitalization of the General Assembly, increase of effectiveness of ECOSOC and the UN Secretariat. Reform of the Security Council also remains an issue of paramount importance that should not be left aside in the month to come. Although the issue of expanding the Security Council proved to be highly divisive, an enormous amount of work has been done to explore different options. We all agree that the expanded Council should be representative, efficient and transparent, and based on these principles we should continue to seek consensus.

Mr. President,

The triangle of development, peace and freedom is of direct relevance to the Republic of Moldova, as our young democracy struggles with the difficulties of transition, suffers for more than 13 years from a protracted unsolved conflict, inspired and supported from abroad, and sees the fundamental freedoms of a significant part of its citizens violated by an aggressive separatist regime.

As representatives of my country have stressed over the years in front of this august assembly, settlement of the internal conflict in transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova is our absolute priority. Separatism is not only the main threat to our country's peace and security; it is also the main obstacle to further consolidation of the independence and statehood of the Republic of Moldova, a hindrance to its economic development. The reintegration of the country respecting the principle of territorial integrity and sovereignty is a prerequisite for a stable and prosperous Republic of Moldova, able to achieve its strategic internal and external objectives.

The Republic of Moldova has worked faithfully and constructively towards this end for many years, looking for a peaceful, just and lasting solution of this political conflict, fostering the dialogue with the self-appointed transnistrian leaders with the help of mediating countries and the OSCE. Unfortunately, all the efforts were in vain, proving the inefficiency of the old format. With support and encouragement from abroad, the separatist leaders have been using the negotiations process to legitimize themselves as representing the will of the inhabitants from the transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, promoting the idea of a pseudo "statehood" for which there are no ethnic, religious or other plausible grounds. In the meantime, the region became a center of illegal and criminal economic activity, trafficking, arms production and proliferation, a threat for the stability and security of a whole part of the European continent. Its multinational population lives under the constant press of the separatist regime's propaganda and under the surveillance of its security structures, being constantly intimidated and harassed.

This situation cannot continue indefinitely. There is a growing sense of urgency in the Moldovan society, expressed in an unprecedented consensus and resolve of all political parties about the ways and means to settle the conflict. Political momentum is building up, as Ukraine advanced a new plan for the settlement. Following this development, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova passed several documents related to the Ukrainian Plan, including the Law on Fundamental Regulations of The Special Legal Status of Settlements on the Left Bank of the river Nistru (Transnistria) of July 22, 2005.

The Republic of Moldova has been calling for a number of concrete actions that would create the conditions for a lasting settlement of the conflict. These include:

- The complete, unconditional and transparent withdrawal of foreign troops and munitions from the territory of Moldova, in accordance with the relevant OSCE Istanbul Summit decisions. Foreign military presence is used as a factor of external pressure and provides a political shield for the separatist authorities.

- The establishing of a transparent and efficient control over the transnistrian segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border. We highly appreciate the decision of the European Union to assist in monitoring this segment, which should contribute to curbing the illegal commercial activities and all trafficking. In this sense, we support the early signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the European Commission Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, and express satisfaction with the readiness of Ukrainian authorities to cooperate in this field.

- Democratization and Demilitarization of transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, through the development of civil society, political parties and free press, respect for human rights and freedoms, disarmament and dismantlement of illegal military units and militias, security structures, elimination of criminal economic groups. Only after creating a vibrant and politically open society – a process that should be carried out under a close monitoring from the international community - one could envisage the possibility of free and democratic elections in Transnistria that would bring about true and responsible representatives of the population of the region.

The Republic of Moldova has been pleading for a new negotiating format by connecting the European Union and the United States. New inputs, ideas and practical contributions

are needed to move the process forward. The same is true about the current peacekeeping mechanism that is far from meeting the recognized standards of non-biased attitude, and should be replaced with an international mechanism of military and civil observers under an OSCE mandate.

Our goal is not just to reintegrate the country; it is - and I quote what my President said in this very hall - to expand the benefit of democracy and rule of law and to ensure a maximum level of protection of human rights on the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova, so that our citizens from the area controlled by the totalitarian separatist regime from Tiraspol would also enjoy them.

The reintegration of the country would also give a new impetus to our efforts to ensure a sustained economic development. The strong economic performance, reflected in a stable and sustained economic growth over the last 4 years, the quality of our country's Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth Strategy Paper and the steady commitment of the Government to fully implementing it show that the Republic of Moldova is on the right track towards increasing the well-being of our citizens, improving the socio-economic indicators, including through achievement of the MDG's.

The Republic of Moldova has irreversibly chosen the way of European integration as the strategic objective of its foreign policy. We realize the full extent of changes, reforms and improvements that we have to achieve internally in order to fulfill the rigorous European standards of economic development, good governance, democracy, political freedom and human rights. But our people are fully committed to the idea of integrating into the system of political, economic and social values of the European Union's family. Our optimism regarding the success of Moldova's aspirations roots in the firm will of the entire society to mobilize our resources in order to achieve this objective.

Successful and complete implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan will open for us the possibility to rise to a new level of contractual relations with the EU, provided by this document. It is also a decisive factor for further realization of internal reforms and general progress of the Republic of Moldova. The recent first evaluation of the implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan has shown encouraging results and steady progress. The Government is committed to the full implementation of this comprehensive document, which will open, we hope, a clear European perspective to our country.

Mr. President,

As a proud member of the UN family, the Republic of Moldova is confident that it can always count on the support of the international community on its difficult yet gratifying journey towards security, prosperity and freedom. Likewise, my country is ready to work tirelessly to make our Organization stronger, more efficient and able to fulfill the ambitious goals set out by our leaders at the World Summit 2005. Only through collective action, in the spirit of a global partnership, we will be able to ensure for the generations to come a better and more secure world.

Thank you, Mr. President.