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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

STATEMENT

by

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 25 September 2014

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great honour and a special sense of responsibility that I address you today. My country has chosen a European future, and it will make Moldova stronger and more prosperous.

This year we have signed, ratified and already provisionally apply the new Association Agreement with the EU. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, an integral part of the Agreement, opens new perspectives for the accession of Moldova in the European and world markets. It will make our economy more competitive, stimulate economic growth and integrate Moldova into the mainstream of global trade with all its benefits. Its implementation is our short-term priority. Our next goal is to apply for EU membership.

Now that we have defined our path and established the framework for our further development we must focus on systemic deliveries. Strengthening democracy and the rule of law, fighting corruption, improving our investment climate, developing rural areas and enhancing our energy security – these are the objectives to be accomplished in the near term.

We are grateful to all our partners for supporting Moldova's modernisation agenda. They helped us to strengthen good governance, promote justice and home affairs reforms, support the modernisation of the agricultural sector and implement energy interconnection projects. Just recently, a new pipeline has been finalized which connects Moldova via Romania to EU's gas network. This and other strategic projects connecting Moldova to Europe, including power grids, roads and bridges, will be implemented in the next 4 years.

Our ambitions, however, will not be fulfilled if benefits of closer association with Europe are not fully shared by our citizens living in the Transnistrian region. Just as the rest of Moldova, people and businesses in the region want the development opportunities that association with the EU clearly brings. The DCFTA will increase production and exports. Therefore, jobs, salaries, pension and benefits will rise significantly.

Visa free travel for all Moldovan citizens to the EU as of April this year, along with new trade and investment opportunities are just a few real examples which demonstrate that Moldova is on the right track. However, alongside the conflict

settlement process, we will continue focusing on building confidence between the citizens, the private sector and other stakeholders of the entire country.

Mr. President,

Against this background, the resolution of the Transnistrian conflict and the reintegration of Moldova is another top priority for my Government. In our effort to resolve this conflict, our goal remains the same: to achieve a political settlement based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, and a special political status for the Transnistrian region. All our international partners involved in the settlement process agree on these basic principles. And today, more than ever we need their united and proactive approach to help solve this protracted conflict.

Discussions on political and security aspects of the conflict should be resumed without delay within the 5+2 negotiating format. There are other outstanding issues which create additional obstacles to the settlement process. Continuing presence of Russia's military forces and ammunition in the Transnistrian region, contrary to international commitments and the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, is one of these issues. We expect the Russian Federation to finalize the process of the withdrawal without further delay. We also believe that bringing the peacekeeping arrangement in line with international standards by transforming the current military operation into a civilian multinational mission, would provide a positive impulse to the political process.

Distinguished delegates,

Moldova seeks to develop fruitful relations with all its partners in the East and West. In the last 5 years my Government promoted a coherent and predictable foreign policy agenda, based on our European choice.

Regrettably, currently Moldova faces unjustified trade restrictions on export of its agricultural products to the Russian Federation. Trade relations in the whole CIS region have been affected, but nevertheless, we hope that a continuing dialogue with our Russian partners based on the WTO and the CIS rules will contribute to the resumption of normal trade relations with Russia. We are grateful for the assistance of our trade partners, particularly the EU, for supporting the Government in its efforts to lessen the immediate impact of these restrictions on Moldovan farmers and producers.

Full liberalization of the EU market for Moldovan wines and agriculture products, as well as a new free trade area with Turkey will contribute to the market

diversification in the future. We will continue to explore new trade partnerships in the world.

Distinguished delegates,

We have followed with great concern the evolutions in Ukraine. A year ago no one could have imagined that Ukraine could be thrown into such a painful and profound crisis.

At the same time, like Moldova, Ukraine has also set a path for European integration and that offers a real chance for improving people's wellbeing while facilitating reconciliation, reconstruction and security. We believe that sovereign choices of all members of the international community should be respected.

We recall the need to respect the provisions of the UN Charter and international law. Like many other countries, we will never recognize the annexation of Crimea. We also encourage any involvement from the international community in particular by the United Nations and the OSCE, in actions to stabilize the situation on the ground. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine must be respected.

Excellencies,

Today we face new and increasingly complex security challenges. Moldova is doing its part to address these challenges by making its own contributions to promoting peace, security and stability in Europe and on the international arena. We have taken concrete measures to support the UN, EU and NATO efforts in this regard. This year Moldova deployed 41 soldiers to NATO-led KFOR operation under the authority of the UN Security Council in Kosovo and contributed to the EU Training Mission in Mali. That represents a new level of Moldova's commitment to promoting security and stability.

Mr. President,

Moldova is committed to protecting human rights at national and international level. We have made steady progress in the implementation of relevant UN special procedures and recommendations. Moldova has volunteered to present a mid-term evaluation report on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations by October 2014.

At the same time, a national strategic program for demographic security for 2011-2025 is currently implemented in Moldova. We want to become a regional center of excellence for the best policies in reproductive health and contribute to UNFPA

objectives. Moldova is also sharing migration and development best practices with other countries in the EU's Eastern and Southern Neighborhood. We are actively engaged in the work of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD).

Moldova also supports the advancement of a free and independent society, including the freedom of expression on the Internet and media. For the last 3 years my country has had one of the best and affordable Internet connections in the world. More than 65% of Moldovans access internet at least once a day. This is why I am proud that Moldova was accepted this year as a member of the Freedom Online Coalition.

Moldova's membership in the Open Government Partnerships (OGP) is another important contribution to the UN MDGs commitments. We are currently implementing a comprehensive e-Governance Agenda. Today, Moldova is one of the first countries in the region, and among the first 16 countries in the world to have an Open Data Portal. Just recently, in August 2014, the Government of Moldova approved the new Open Data Policy in line with G8 Open Data Charter.

We made one step forward to agree on a new post-2015 development agenda and of a new set of sustainable development goals. Moldova will continue to contribute to this effort by hosting in February 2015 an event where we will consolidate and validate the conclusions of the High Level Dialogue on the Capacity Building and Sustainable Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me reiterate Moldova's commitment to promote the core principles of this organization and to assist the international community to deliver on the UN's greatest promise – peace, justice, security and development for the people of the world.

I thank you.