



Statement

by H.E. Mr. Vlad Lupan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations at the General Discussions of the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
New York, 11th March 2013

Madam Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

We would like to extend our congratulations for the tremendous work done to ensure a good functioning of the 57th session of CSW. Not less importantly we take note with great interest of the two Secretary-General reports under the priority theme of this session. We are glad that the effort to terminate the violence against women is taking, as we can see, an enormous and rightly deserved attention. In this context we would like to come with some national experiences that the Moldovan Government is taking, together with the civil society, for a substantive progress on that matter, achieved in the past years. Hence we are also happy that the UN Women, in its report, praises the excellent cooperation with the Moldovan civil society in preventing and combating violence against women.

Madam Chair,

The subject of the violence against women is still on our agenda today. This negative phenomenon goes, first of all, hand in hand with the lack of elementary moral education, and, of course, it is going against the idea of equality of humans – as we are all different, but we are all equal at the same time – gender equality is a concept that strengthens this basic human rights principle. We are glad that we can see these days a consensus, here at the UN, and in our respective capitals, for the need to join efforts to achieve progress in countering the violence against women, or at the very least, to pave the way for further progress.

Too often the negative practice of violence against women goes hand in hand with other adverse phenomena, such as the malfunctioning justice, trafficking in human beings or lack of what we call family and societal education, as well as a loose interpretation of the rule of law concept. Therefore, the actions that the Republic of Moldova takes vary from legal to educational and law enforcement efforts to counter the violence against women in all its forms and situations.

I take this opportunity to bring to your attention that the legal framework in our country, especially the Law on Preventing and Combating Family violence, has provided an excellent foundation for increasing access to justice and safety for domestic violence victims. With this legislation, Republic of Moldova became one of the first countries in the region to address domestic violence in both the civil and criminal systems. Notably, it is also one of the first to include comprehensive provisions for a multi-sectoral response in domestic violence.

As an additional measure, Government of the Republic of Moldova developed and approved in 2012 *Joint Guidelines regarding the intervention of the social assistance, law enforcement and medical care bodies in the cases of domestic violence*. These guidelines represent the implementing tool of the

existing laws, integrating a joint, but at the same time clearly-defined response and intervention on domestic violence cases. It also help to streamline and standardize the working procedures, to achieve the objectives of the National Referral System for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking (NRS), a tool created in 2006, initially for the protection and assistance of potential victims of trafficking and latter extended to cover domestic violence victims, as potential victims of trafficking.

Moreover, as a matter of priority in confronting the violence against women phenomenon, Moldovan authorities displayed a strong political will in order to adjust the national provisions to international and European standards (including the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women – CAHVIO). For this purpose, in September 2012 an inter-ministerial working group was created with two focuses in mind

1. amendment of relevant legislation for improving the implementation mechanism of the existing laws and its harmonization with European standards,
2. their implementation by the respective governmental bodies.

And, I will again mention that this process is ongoing in consultation with the civil society and our international partners and experts.

It is no secret that another negative phenomenon mentioned by the Head of UN Women, Mme Bachelet, fuels violence against women - the trafficking in human beings. Thus, as we know 2/3 of the victims of trafficking are women. For this reason the Moldovan Government also undertakes strong additional measures to prevent and combat it. And according to the 2012 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GRTP) of the U.S. Department of State, the Republic of Moldova moved from tier three to tier two in the list of countries affected by trafficking. The progress registered in this direction recent years is also a result of a systemic approach of the Moldovan authorities to the problems of trafficking and women. In terms of anti-trafficking, systemically moving towards the strengthening of the legal framework, the Moldovan authorities drafted a National Plan for Prevention and Combating Trafficking In Human Beings for 2012-2013. The Plan contains a number of concrete actions to be taken by the Republic of Moldova, as a result of the Council of Europe recommendations (GRETA) report, the observation of the US State Department Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, the Universal Periodical Review, and our internal national reports. Only in 2012, Moldovan authorities managed to organize over 100 workshops to train about 1800 specialists to fight this plague, while every law enforcement body founded a separate anti-trafficking unit in its ranks. We believe such task forces in every law enforcement body are an interesting example for UN member states.

Mme Chair,

In conclusion, we would reconfirm that the Republic of Moldova firmly aligns to and fully shares the concern of the current session of CSW and recognizes the violence against women phenomenon as a serious breach to basic human rights.

We hope that eliminating violence against women will be successfully achieved in cooperation between member states, and with the existing human rights international bodies and institutions - the Republic of Moldova stands ready to make its own contribution to the promotion of a society free of violence against woman.

Thank you, Madam Chair, for your kind attention!