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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Republic of Moldova

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its fortieth session from 24 January to 11 February 2022. The review of the Republic of Moldova was held at the 9th meeting, on 28 January 2022. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova was headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Iulian Rusu. At its 14th meeting, held on 1 February 2022, the Working Group adopted the report on the Republic of Moldova.
2. On 12 January 2022, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Republic of Moldova: Cameroon, Montenegro and Nepal.
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);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to the Republic of Moldova through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Republic of Moldova stated that following the second cycle review, it had developed the comprehensive National Human Rights Action Plan for 2018–2022, which included all the universal periodic review recommendations as well as other international observations in the field of human rights made to the Republic of Moldova by the monitoring bodies of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organizations. In 2018, it had established the National Human Rights Council and the Permanent Secretariat for Human Rights to coordinate and monitor the implementation of national policies in the field of human rights. The Council consisted of representatives of public authorities and civil society.
6. The Government has deployed considerable efforts to strengthen the national human rights institutions. In 2017, the Constitution was amended with a separate chapter on the People's Advocate, regulating its mission, immunities and guarantees. In May 2018, the Office of the People's Advocate had been accredited with A status.
7. The Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality was actively involved in campaigns to promote equality and non-discrimination in all sectors at the national level. The Government intended to extend the non-discrimination criteria of the Law on ensuring equality and broaden the functional competences of the Council.
8. Amendments to the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, which had entered into force in 2017, were aimed at reducing the number of detainees in the penitentiary system. The ability to replace the remaining part of a sentence with a milder sanction had been

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/40/MDA/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/40/MDA/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/40/MDA/3](#).

introduced. Continuous efforts were undertaken to improve physical conditions for persons deprived of their liberty.

9. The Government had continued to accede to and ratify various international instruments; cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures of the Human Rights Council; and cooperate with international human rights monitoring mechanisms on unrestricted access to the Transnistrian region of the country.

10. The strategy for the development of civil society had been approved and guarantees of freedom of association had been enhanced through the adoption in 2020 of a new Law on non-profit organizations. The latter provided for a simplified procedure for the registration of non-governmental organizations.

11. In 2018, the Code of Audiovisual Media Services and the concept of information security of the Republic of Moldova were adopted in order to ensure freedom of expression.

12. Public policies and measures had been promoted to ensure equality and non-discrimination, including capacity-building exercises for civil servants, police officers, prosecutors and judges.

13. The strategy for the consolidation of inter-ethnic relations for the years 2017–2027 was being successfully implemented. The strategy consisted of four priority areas: participation in public life; language as a mean of integration; intercultural dialogue and civic affiliation; and mass media.

14. In order to improve the condition of the Roma communities and ensure their active participation in the social and political life of the country, the action plan on supporting the Roma population in the Republic of Moldova was implemented between 2016 and 2020.

15. With regard to access to justice, the Government had undertaken legislative and institutional reforms that strengthened the self-governance capacities of the judiciary, the Superior Council of Magistracy and its subordinate boards; launched a reform of the court dislocation map; created new mechanisms for the selection, performance evaluation and disciplinary liability of judges including by strengthening the role and status of the judicial inspection; promoted the legislative basis for the rehabilitation of crime victims; and strengthened the juvenile justice system.

16. Despite the efforts made, the state of affairs in the justice sector had not reached the desirable quality standards. The main reasons were factors that affected the integrity of justice sector stakeholders, defective enforcement of the regulatory framework and an underdeveloped legal culture. Ensuring society's trust in justice was the main target of the current reform process, which would be promoted under the new strategy for ensuring the independence and integrity of justice sector for 2022–2025.

17. The Republic of Moldova paid particular attention to the protection of the rights of the child. The child protection strategy for 2014–2020 had allowed for the development of alternative family-type services, ensuring necessary conditions for raising and educating children in the family environment, prevention of the separation of the child from the family, and standardization and increase of social benefits for children at risk. Various actions had been taken through the action plan to promote child safety on the Internet for 2017–2020.

18. The Government also paid particular attention to the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, which remained a cross-cutting priority among all national policies, pursued with the direct involvement of persons with disabilities and civil society organizations representing them. All pertinent measures had been inserted in the national programme for social inclusion of persons with disabilities for the years 2017–2022 and the action plan on its implementation, as well as in the national programme for deinstitutionalization of persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in residential institutions for 2018–2026.

19. The Government was committed to take all the necessary steps to ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of citizens living in the Transnistrian region of the country. Human rights and free movement along the Nistru river was still the central issue promoted at all levels of the negotiation process. The human rights situation in the Transnistrian region was constantly brought to the attention of external partners, the “5+2”

format actors, relevant international organizations and civil society, with the call to contribute to improving it.

20. Efforts undertaken by the Government to guarantee the essential values over the past two years had been minimized due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The situation had exacerbated inequality and discrimination of vulnerable groups.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 72 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. Turkmenistan appreciated measures taken to enhance the development of the legislative and institutional framework to promote and protect human rights, including the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022.

23. Ukraine complimented the Republic of Moldova for its comprehensive approach to ensuring progress in the promotion and protection of human rights, through the successful implementation of sectoral action plans, strong institutions and legislative foundations, while expressing concern over systemic violations of human rights in the Transnistrian region not under control of the Government.

24. The United Kingdom recognized the priority given to reforming the justice sector and urged the Government to show regard for proportionality and due process while carrying out those reforms. It urged the Republic of Moldova to improve prison conditions in line with international standards. It noted efforts to address human rights abuses by the de facto authorities in the Transnistrian region.

25. The United Republic of Tanzania welcomed the ratification of international instruments and the relevant protocols; the adoption of national and sectoral policies and programmes; and the implementation of the employment strategy for 2017–2021.

26. The United States commended the Republic of Moldova for committing to a robust reform and anti-corruption agenda. It welcomed efforts to strengthen the independence and integrity of the judiciary and the Prosecution Service.

27. Uruguay welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Moldova since the second cycle of the universal periodic review in the area of human rights, including the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022.

28. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated that the Office of the People's Advocate had been accredited with A status, complying with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and that periodic reports had been submitted to treaty bodies. It further appreciated measures taken to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion of disadvantaged groups.

29. Albania welcomed the progress made towards the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and the adoption of the first national action plan on the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security (2018–2021).

30. Algeria commended the Republic of Moldova for the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022 and the establishment of the National Human Rights Council in 2019.

31. Argentina made recommendations.

32. Armenia welcomed the legal and institutional reforms undertaken towards further consolidation of democratic institutions in the country.

33. Australia continued to encourage the Republic of Moldova to strengthen support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, the Roma population and victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; and to improve conditions in prisons and detention facilities.

34. Austria noted with concern that the concentration of media ownership and the lack of editorial independence and quality journalism remained major challenges. Austria also shared the concerns of the Human Rights Committee about persistent overcrowding, inter-prisoner violence, poor hygiene conditions and lack of access to proper health care in detention centres.
35. Azerbaijan commended the Republic of Moldova for the significant progress made since the previous review, in particular with regard to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, strengthening the potential of the justice sector and promoting women's participation in decision-making and in the labour market.
36. Bangladesh recognized the robust policy framework for advancing human rights, including the action plans for the Roma population and migrants and asylum seekers. Bangladesh underscored the need to address inequalities between rural and urban people, including in employment, housing, health care and education.
37. Belgium welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.
38. Brazil commended advances in the establishment of human rights institutions. It appreciated the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and measures taken to ensure social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic.
39. Bulgaria commended the Republic of Moldova for the implementation of the strategy for consolidating inter-ethnic relations. It expected the Government to ensure appropriate conditions for persons belonging to the Bulgarian national minority.
40. Canada welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. It recognized the reform efforts to advance human rights, and encouraged further actions.
41. Chile appreciated the establishment of a council for the prevention of torture as the national preventive mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
42. China appreciated the efforts and achievements in promoting and protecting human rights, including implementing a national development strategy; promoting economic and social development; combating the COVID-19 pandemic; promoting gender equality; protecting the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups; and combating trafficking in persons.
43. Croatia welcomed progress in terms of the legal and institutional framework for the protection of human rights and efforts to strengthen the role and independence of the People's Advocate. It appreciated the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.
44. Cyprus noted progress with the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Istanbul Convention.
45. Czechia appreciated the attempts made to reform the justice sector and expressed the hope that it would lead to a fully independent judiciary system trusted by the general public.
46. Denmark made a recommendation.
47. The Dominican Republic praised efforts to strengthen the institutional framework and the constitutional protection of the independence of the People's Advocate.
48. Egypt commended the adoption of a national human rights action plan for the period 2018–2022, the establishment of a national human rights institution, and the adoption of a number of laws and policies to combat discrimination and hate speech.
49. Estonia positively noted the adoption of the national human rights action plan and appreciated steps taken to achieve gender equality and fight domestic violence. It deeply regretted that the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region had worsened sharply. It encouraged the strengthening of dialogue on human rights issues on a bilateral level as well as within international human rights mechanisms.
50. Fiji welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Council and the adoption of the national human rights action plan.

51. Finland highlighted that the ratification of the Istanbul Convention was an important step forward in eliminating all forms of gender-based violence. Finland encouraged the Republic of Moldova to continue to address the capacities of the Equality Council by strengthening its mandate.

52. The Republic of Moldova acknowledged that the situation in the penitentiary system still required improvement. The quality of medical services had been improved and most medical departments in penitentiary institutions had obtained accreditation for the provision of high-quality medical services.

53. Judicial reform and anti-corruption measures were at the cornerstone of government efforts. Efforts were made to ensure that the proper candidates were selected by the Superior Council of Magistracy and the Superior Council of Prosecutors. A draft law on the evaluation of candidates was before parliament. Ethical and financial integrity were leading principles.

54. With regard to the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova, despite steps taken, the situation was very worrying and continued to deteriorate. There had been an alarming trend of cases of criminal persecution and deprivation of liberty of persons critical of the Tiraspol administration. The situation of most of those detained remained unknown, including regarding their conditions of detention, state of health or the accusations brought against them. Many persons were restricted with regard to their right to private property, education in their native language, access to quality health care, housing, the right to life and physical integrity, the right to a fair trial and access to courts of law. The Government emphasized that all measures aimed at ensuring effective mechanisms for monitoring and protecting human rights in the Transnistrian region and the final settlement of issues of the Berlin Plus package remained its top priority.

55. The Republic of Moldova had made a number of important improvements in the field of labour relations, employment policy, social security policy, gender equality and the rights of children and persons with disabilities.

56. In 2021, the control functions in the field of occupational safety and health and the investigation of accidents at work were reassigned to the State Labour Inspectorate. This was an important first step in ensuring the functional integrity of the State Labour Inspectorate in accordance with international labour standards. In addition, the Nomenclature of Prohibited Functions for Women was repealed. Unemployed persons were provided with employment subsidies, vocational training, on-the-job training, internships, and assisted employment for persons with disabilities.

57. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government had implemented measures for persons at risk of social exclusion and for employers and employees, such as allowances for parents staying home with children in the case of online education, and allowances for technical unemployment and partial unemployment.

58. With regard to gender equality, a road map for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention was being developed jointly with development partners and civil society.

59. The Government was implementing a national programme for social inclusion of persons with disabilities and was conducting a mid-term evaluation of the national programme for deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities in order to make further improvements to it.

60. The Government had begun the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, elaborated the national programme for child protection for 2022–2026, and developed the concept of the information system in the field of child protection.

61. The Republic of Moldova had increased the minimum pension amount in order to increase the degree of social protection and guarantee a decent living for older persons and persons with disabilities. Low-income families and older persons were provided with social assistance for the cold season.

62. According to legislation, equal rights were guaranteed to all citizens, irrespective of their ethnic origin. The first action plan had been implemented regarding the strategy for the consolidation of inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Moldova for 2017–2027. A study

on the effective participation of national minorities in public life was undertaken with the aim of improving statistical data.

63. The action plan on support for the Roma population in the Republic of Moldova for 2016–2020 had been implemented. A mediator service for the Roma community had been institutionalized with financing from the State budget. There were presently 44 actively employed community mediators out of the 54 planned to be employed.

64. The Government had approved the working definition of antisemitism, as adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and was implementing its second action plan, for 2021–2024, to promote Holocaust remembrance and the culture of tolerance in order to combat racism, antisemitism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

65. Future steps would include the adoption of the second programme, for 2022–2025, on the implementation of the strategy for the consolidation of inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Moldova for 2017–2027, as well as the adoption of the programme for 2022–2025 on the support for the Roma population in the Republic of Moldova.

66. The Government continued to focus on ensuring universal health coverage, including the full spectrum of essential quality health services, moving forward from health promotion to preventive health care, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care, across the life course.

67. The Government focused on ensuring access to essential medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, the continuity and sustainability of national health programmes in counteracting tuberculosis, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and hepatitis through integrated health services, and bringing quality mental health services closer to the population.

68. Improvements had been made in realizing sexual and reproductive rights of girls and women with disabilities. However, not all facilities that provided sexual and reproductive health services were physically accessible and often lacked gynaecological examination rooms and equipment adapted to the needs of women with disabilities.

69. France welcomed efforts made to combat violence against women, including the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

70. Georgia welcomed the accreditation of the People's Advocate with A status. It commended the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the establishment of the National Human Rights Council and the Permanent Secretariat for Human Rights, as well as for having taken steps to promote women's rights and gender equality.

71. Germany commended the Republic of Moldova for progress made with regard to combating corruption and for the reform of the justice system, as well as for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. It remained concerned about prison conditions.

72. Iceland made recommendations.

73. India noted that the legislative, institutional and policy measures outlined in the national report of the Republic of Moldova amply reflected its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. India also appreciated steps taken during the pandemic to protect the most vulnerable members of the population by ensuring necessary health facilities and by fulfilling their basic needs.

74. Indonesia commended the Republic of Moldova for its additional efforts in promoting equality and in countering discrimination and hate speech.

75. The Islamic Republic of Iran made recommendations.

76. Iraq welcomed the country's cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, including the extension of a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

77. Ireland welcomed efforts to advance human rights domestically and commended progress made since the last universal periodic review cycle. Ireland welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and efforts to combat violence against women. It expressed its concern about the administration of justice, and discrimination and hate speech against the LGBTI+ community.

78. Israel welcomed the adoption of the International Remembrance Holocaust Alliance working definition of antisemitism and the approval of the action plan for 2021–2025 to promote Holocaust remembrance and a culture of tolerance. It remained concerned about the rise in antisemitism.
79. Italy welcomed the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to promote and protect human rights, including through the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022. It welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in 2021.
80. Japan took note of the positive steps taken by the Republic of Moldova to protect and promote women’s rights and gender equality, including the ratification of the Istanbul Convention in 2021.
81. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic welcomed the development of legal and institutional frameworks and strategies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, alleviate poverty and achieve gender equality.
82. Lithuania made recommendations.
83. Luxembourg congratulated the Republic of Moldova for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.
84. Malaysia noted various legislative and policy frameworks developed and implemented by the Republic of Moldova to promote the well-being and welfare of its people. Malaysia hoped the Republic of Moldova would continue to make progress regarding the rights of minorities and those persons belonging to vulnerable groups.
85. Maldives welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Council, the Permanent Secretariat for Human Rights, local structures of the Council and human rights coordinators at the central and local level.
86. Malta congratulated the Republic of Moldova for the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022.
87. The Marshall Islands welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Council along with local level commissions and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention as a necessary step in the fight against gender-based violence.
88. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the implementation of mechanisms to respond to domestic violence. Mexico appreciated efforts to harmonize national legislation with the Istanbul Convention and with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
89. Mongolia made recommendations.
90. Montenegro commended the Republic of Moldova for its continued cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and engagement with OHCHR. Montenegro appreciated the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the establishment of the Office of the People’s Advocate and the Equality Council. Montenegro was concerned at the high prevalence of gender-based violence against women, including domestic, economic and psychosocial violence.
91. Morocco welcomed the development of the national strategy for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for 2018–2023, and the national human rights action plan.
92. Nepal congratulated the Office of the People’s Advocate for having been accredited with A status. It took positive note of the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022 and appreciated the adoption of the action plan on the implementation of the national programme for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security for 2018–2021.
93. The Netherlands welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, the adoption of the hate crime legislation and the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to reform its justice sector.

94. Niger congratulated the Republic of Moldova on the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022. It welcomed measures taken to reduce poverty and promote the social inclusion of persons belonging to disadvantaged groups, including programmes and projects intended to finance social housing for vulnerable families.
95. Pakistan welcomed the accreditation with A status of the Office of the People’s Advocate and the implementation of the national human rights action plan 2018–2022. Pakistan remained concerned over reports of rising incidents of discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes, including against Muslims. It urged the Government to strengthen anti-discrimination legislation.
96. The Philippines acknowledged the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022 in line with the recommendations presented in the second universal periodic review cycle. It further welcomed the accreditation of the Office of the People’s Advocate by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions as compliant with the Paris Principles.
97. Poland welcomed the accreditation of the Office of the People’s Advocate with A status, recognizing its compliance with the Paris Principles. Poland remained concerned about the high number of children subject to abuse or neglect and those left behind by their migrant parents. It also noted concerns expressed by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on discrimination faced by children with disabilities and their incomplete integration into all areas of social life, including the education system.
98. Portugal noted with appreciation efforts to ensure the independence and integrity of the judiciary, combat trafficking in persons and protect children in the most vulnerable situations. It welcomed the accreditation of the Office of the People’s Advocate with A status.
99. Qatar commended the Republic of Moldova for measures aimed at enhancing respect for human rights in the country and fulfilling relevant international obligations, including the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022 and the establishment of the National Human Rights Council.
100. Romania highlighted the legal improvements and positive developments regarding gender equality, including the recent ratification of the Istanbul Convention or the progress made in women’s representation in politics and the decision-making process, despite some remaining challenges that still needed to be addressed.
101. The Russian Federation regretted the insufficient efforts made by the Government to implement the Law on ensuring equality, noting that there were still serious discrepancies between the accepted legal norms and the real situation of representatives of national minorities in the country. It was extremely concerned about the attempts by the authorities to introduce strict censorship against the Russian-language media. It was also concerned about the incoming complaints about overcrowding in places of detention, torture, poor conditions of detention and medical care.
102. Senegal expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Government to implement a human rights-based approach in policymaking with a view to creating equal opportunities for all.
103. Serbia made a recommendation.
104. The Republic of Moldova had improved conditions in 15 temporary detention facilities, with the creation of premises for hearings and confidential meetings with defence counsel. Standard operating procedures were approved regarding the detention, placement and escorting of detainees.
105. Police officers were trained on the prevention of torture and inhuman treatment, and on guaranteeing the rights of persons held in police custody.
106. In order to improve the response mechanisms to cases of domestic violence, the methodical instructions on police intervention in the settlement of domestic violence cases were developed, allowing police officers to ensure the immediate protection of victims from domestic violence by issuing an emergency restraining order. The order allowed the immediate removal of the aggressor as an urgent provisional measure.

107. Ensuring the observance of human rights throughout criminal investigations would remain a top priority for prosecutors. The entry into force of the Law on the Public Prosecution Service provided new legal tools in this regard.

108. Prosecutors would be exclusively responsible for the review of the contents of a notification or complaint regarding alleged acts of torture or ill-treatment, even before the initiation of a criminal investigation.

109. Considerable efforts have been made to identify, investigate and convict persons responsible for trafficking in persons. Joint investigation teams had been established with the competent authorities of Romania and France.

110. The Code of Audiovisual Media Services contained provisions relating the protection of journalists, as well as the prohibition of audiovisual programmes that might propagate, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, antisemitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance or discrimination on the basis of gender, race, nationality, religion, disability or sexual orientation. The Audiovisual Content Regulation expressly set out provisions on hate speech and any forms of hatred based on intolerance and discrimination. The Audiovisual Council developed recommendations addressed to audiovisual service providers in order to combat hate speech and sexist language, and to ensure access to information for persons with disabilities.

111. Newsletters and public service broadcasts were accessible to persons with hearing impairments, for whom translation into sign language or subtitling of texts was provided.

112. With regard to linguistic minorities, in 2021, 16 media service providers were active on the audiovisual media market, broadcasting television programmes and sound broadcasting in the language of national minorities.

113. The language of instruction in schools for the majority of children was Romanian. The Government continued to take steps to ensure that national minorities could receive education in their native language. Steps had also been taken to ensure that the history and culture of the Roma was taught.

114. Efforts had been made to ensure that children with disabilities could be taught in mainstream schools, ensuring an inclusive education.

115. With regard to the right to adequate and safe drinking water and sanitation, in 2021, 110 projects were rolled out to ensure access to persons living in remote areas.

116. Slovakia noted the significant decrease in the ranking of the Republic of Moldova in the World Press Freedom Index. It deplored the fact that independent journalists faced attacks, intimidation or intense legal pressure. Slovakia would closely follow the implementation of the strategic document for the justice sector to combat high-level corruption and organized crime.

117. Slovenia remained concerned by reports about victims of domestic and sexual violence who continued to face multiple difficulties in accessing justice and equal protection under the law, and stressed the need to adopt and implement firm, systematic measures in line with international standards.

118. Spain made recommendations.

119. Sweden acknowledged the ambitious reform agenda of the Republic of Moldova, and it welcomed the ratifications of the Istanbul Convention and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. However, it remained concerned about the lack of independence of the justice sector and the inadequate protection against discrimination.

120. Timor-Leste commended the Republic of Moldova for the adoption of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022, the establishment of the National Human Rights Council and the approval of the civil society development strategy for 2018–2020.

121. Tunisia welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Council, the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination, the adoption of the Law on the Ombudsman, the national human rights action plan and the Law on ensuring equality.

122. Turkey welcomed the steps taken to develop a national legal and institutional framework, including the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022 and the establishment of the National Human Rights Council.

123. The Republic of Moldova emphasized that every judge was obliged to record instances of incitement to corruption. Special bodies had been established to address corruption, the most important being the General Prosecutor.

124. The National Institute of Justice had conducted training activities for judges and prosecutors between 2017 and 2021, focusing on combating trafficking in persons, fighting corruption, combating torture, non-discrimination, the right of persons with disabilities, combating domestic violence, juvenile justice and combating sexual violence.

125. In closing, the Republic of Moldova stated that the recommendations received within the context of the universal periodic review would be incorporated into national policy documents. It would continue to strengthen the role of the Ombudsman and the Equality Council, as well as the national preventive mechanism. One of the key priorities remained the effective implementation of the national human rights action plan for 2018–2022, the drafting and implementation of a new action plan, and the increase in efficiency of the National Human Rights Council in coordinating and monitoring the policies at the country level.

126. The Republic of Moldova would accelerate its efforts to promote efficient measures for the justice sector and anti-corruption policies. It would address the effectiveness and competences of the anti-corruption authorities and would continue to streamline the legal framework on the system of selection and promotion of judges and prosecutors. The immediate priority was to ensure that the new composition of the Supreme Council of Magistrates and the Supreme Council of Prosecutors was based on merit and integrity. A key challenge was to eliminate the currently prevailing perception of a lack of integrity within the judicial system and its stakeholders.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

127. **The following recommendations will be examined by the Republic of Moldova, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fiftieth session of the Human Rights Council.**

127.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bangladesh) (Albania) (Chile);**

127.2 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal) (Philippines); Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia); Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger);**

127.3 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Slovakia) (Chile) (Mexico) (Lithuania);**

127.4 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which is an important tool of prevention (Mongolia);**

127.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mexico) (Lithuania);**

127.6 **Accelerate domestic procedures for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**

- 127.7 **Conclude the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which the Republic of Moldova signed in 2007 (Japan);**
- 127.8 **Consider adopting the necessary measures with a view of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**
- 127.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed in 2018 (Italy);**
- 127.10 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Nepal);**
- 127.11 **Accelerate its effort to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mongolia);**
- 127.12 **Consolidate international commitments in the field of human rights, such as the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Morocco);**
- 127.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Albania) (Slovakia) (Poland);**
- 127.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**
- 127.15 **Ratify and implement the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 127.16 **Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Denmark);**
- 127.17 **Speed up ratification of the Istanbul Convention, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**
- 127.18 **Consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Argentina);**
- 127.19 **Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Estonia);**
- 127.20 **Consider developing a new strategic document that ensures the continuation of the implementation of the Civil Society Development Strategy 2018–2020 (Romania);**
- 127.21 **Adopt, through a participatory and inclusive process, the comprehensive law of human rights defenders (Mexico);**
- 127.22 **Develop a new civil society strategy to support the development of civil society and involve them in the decision-making process in line with international democratic standards (Estonia);**
- 127.23 **Take further steps to allow greater scope of engagement of civil society organizations, including in the field of promoting human rights (Cyprus);**
- 127.24 **Ensure more effective implementation of the inheritance and succession provisions of the Civil Code and other related rules, in order to eradicate serious discrepancies between law and practice (Spain);**
- 127.25 **Finalize effective implementation of the Action Plan for Human Rights 2018–2022 (Ukraine);**
- 127.26 **Continue its effort to implement the Action Plan for Human Rights 2018–2022; Develop and implement of a new policy document post-2022 (Algeria);**

- 127.27 **Continue implementing the current Action Plan for Human Rights and develop a new policy document post-2022 (Romania);**
- 127.28 **Ensure effective implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2018–2022, National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2018–2023 and the Strategy for Ensuring the Integrity and Independence of the Justice Sector for 2021–2024 (Azerbaijan);**
- 127.29 **Enhance the work towards achieving the objectives and goals enshrined in the National Development Strategy 2030 to further improve living standards and well-being of its citizens (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**
- 127.30 **Pursue implementing practical steps aimed at the development of the institutional and human rights infrastructure to fulfil its human rights obligations (Turkmenistan);**
- 127.31 **Continue its ongoing efforts for further strengthening work of the institution of the People’s Advocate (Turkmenistan);**
- 127.32 **Take further legislative measures to strengthen the role of the Ombudsman and the Equality Council (Ukraine);**
- 127.33 **Continue to strengthen the role of the Ombudsman and the Equality Council, including by promoting relevant legislative amendments (Algeria);**
- 127.34 **Strengthen the resources granted to institutions responsible for the protection of human rights and the fight against discrimination, in particular the People’s Advocate, the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and the Office of the Mediator (France);**
- 127.35 **Conclude the legislative reforms process to strengthen the role of the Ombudsman and the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality, thereby guaranteeing their financial independence and providing them with adequate investigation, recommendation and sanction authority (Mexico);**
- 127.36 **Strengthen the role and independence of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Equality Council by, inter alia, ensuring that they could provide effective remedies and guaranteeing their financial independence with sufficient budgetary and human resources for their adequate and effective functioning (Serbia);**
- 127.37 **Strengthen the capacities of the People’s Advocate Institution in order to monitor and protect human rights in the Transnistrian region (Belgium);**
- 127.38 **Consider strengthening the powers of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality, so that it can act to prevent and combat online discrimination and abuses, including on social networks (Uruguay);**
- 127.39 **Create a National Mechanism for Implementation, Report and Follow-up of human rights obligations and recommendations (Portugal);**
- 127.40 **Continue strengthening actions relating to the implementation and monitoring of recommendations accepted during the universal periodic review cycle and also move towards establishing a mechanism to create a link with the 2030 Agenda (Dominican Republic);**
- 127.41 **Adopt hate crime legislation in line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Senegal);**
- 127.42 **Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation in line with International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination provisions (Pakistan);**

- 127.43 Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation to ensure the prohibition of all direct, indirect, and multiple forms of discrimination on all grounds, as well as effective remedies for victims of discrimination (Montenegro);
- 127.44 Undertake the necessary actions and measures to eliminate discrimination based on any ground, as well as to combat hate speech related violence (Mexico);
- 127.45 Continue the efforts to fight against hate speech and all forms of discrimination (Turkey);
- 127.46 Harmonize the national legal framework in line with international standards related to hate crime (Algeria);
- 127.47 Pass legislation to criminalize hate-based violence, and increase efforts both to protect persons in vulnerable situations, including women and girls, LGBTQI+ persons, Roma, Jews and persons with disabilities, and to hold perpetrators of hate-based crimes to account (United States of America);
- 127.48 Amend the wording of hate crime in the Criminal Code to protect victims of racially and sexually motivated attacks as outlined by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Spain);
- 127.49 Tackle incidents of hate crimes and hate speech through prompt investigation and ensure perpetrators are prosecuted (Malaysia);
- 127.50 Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating hate speech (Iceland);
- 127.51 Develop national mechanisms to properly investigate and sanction hate speech and hate crimes, including towards members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Netherlands);
- 127.52 Take steps to counter racism and hate speech against Muslims by amending the Criminal Code and incorporating elements in the Action Plan for combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance (Pakistan);
- 127.53 Consider including the subject of combating hate crimes in the curriculum of initial and continuous training of police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers (Malta);
- 127.54 Implement a comprehensive plan to combat discrimination, whatever the reason on which it is based (nationality, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, among others), including the criminalization of hate crimes (Argentina);
- 127.55 Take concrete action to protect the rights of persons who are marginalized and most vulnerable, including ethnic and religious minorities, women, children, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, while taking steps to foster their most fulsome inclusion (Canada);
- 127.56 Tackle discrimination faced by disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups (Malaysia);
- 127.57 Intensify efforts to guarantee equality and non-discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities, among other vulnerable groups (Chile);
- 127.58 Ensure stronger and more comprehensive protection against discrimination, intolerance and hate speech against minorities and marginalized groups, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities (Croatia);
- 127.59 Continue strengthening efforts to eradicate all forms of discrimination against national minorities and disadvantaged and vulnerable populations (Nepal);

- 127.60 Ensure protection against discrimination based on gender identity, sexual orientation, and gender expression by introducing laws on hate crime explicitly covering bias-motivated crimes and incidents relating to these grounds (Sweden);
- 127.61 Guarantee the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including by addressing the barriers to their full participation in daily life (Australia);
- 127.62 Continue the effort to prevent and counter violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons (Italy);
- 127.63 Implement legislative measures aiming at preventing discrimination against LGBTIQI persons (Cyprus);
- 127.64 Take additional measures aimed at the promotion of the equality of rights before the law of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Dominican Republic);
- 127.65 Ensure the rights of LGBTI+ persons are effectively protected under Law number 121 (Iceland);
- 127.66 Ensure that the rights of LGBTI+ persons are protected through the effective implementation of Law No. 121, and combat stereotypes and prejudice through awareness-raising campaigns (Ireland);
- 127.67 Strengthen efforts to eliminate discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, actual or perceived, in compliance with its human rights obligations (Fiji);
- 127.68 Develop a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating hate speech towards LGBTI+ individuals, including through the establishment of a monitoring mechanism, improvement of sanctioning mechanisms, and greater cooperation between law enforcement bodies to facilitate prosecution of hate speech (Ireland);
- 127.69 Take concrete steps, including awareness-raising campaigns, to combat all forms of violence, discrimination and prejudices based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Portugal);
- 127.70 Fully and further enhance its efforts to combat all forms of antisemitism, including through the full implementation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, in policy as well as in practice (Israel);
- 127.71 Implement the Action Plan for 2021–2024 on promoting Holocaust remembrance and the culture of tolerance in order to combat racism, antisemitism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance (Romania);
- 127.72 Reinforce measures to combat all forms of discrimination in order to promote a culture of tolerance (Morocco);
- 127.73 Continue undertaking measures to promote tolerance and non-discrimination, including through conducting awareness-raising programmes (Azerbaijan);
- 127.74 Continue the efforts in view of promoting the human rights and assisting the victims of human rights violations in the Transnistrian region (Romania);
- 127.75 Provide systematic support and assistance to victims of human rights abuses in the Transnistrian region (Czechia);
- 127.76 Continue efforts aimed at countering systemic violations of human rights in the Transnistrian region, including through consolidation of the international community (Ukraine);

- 127.77 Proactively demonstrate commitment to human rights and encourage greater awareness of, and support for, universal human rights throughout Moldova, including in the Transnistrian region (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 127.78 Develop a National Action Plan in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Japan);
- 127.79 Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change, adaptation and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);
- 127.80 Ensure that all complaints of acts of torture and ill-treatment are promptly, impartially and effectively investigated in accordance with international human rights standards, including the Istanbul Protocol (Germany);
- 127.81 Ensure prompt, impartial and effective investigation of complaints concerning acts of torture and ill-treatment, and establish an effective and independent investigation mechanism to this end (Russian Federation);
- 127.82 Continue to implement measures to prevent torture and address the impunity of such acts (Japan);
- 127.83 Implement the recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany);
- 127.84 Secure investigations in all forms of torture and ill-treatment by independent mechanisms (Egypt);
- 127.85 Execute impartial and effective investigations of crimes related to torture and ill-treatment and improve conditions in prisons and detention facilities (Australia);
- 127.86 Provide torture-prevention training to law-enforcement personnel and set up procedures to properly investigate allegations of ill-treatment (Czechia);
- 127.87 Adopt legislation to ensure remedies, access to justice and rehabilitation for victims of torture and ill-treatment (Germany);
- 127.88 Take concrete steps to improve conditions of detention in penitentiary institutions and bring them into line with international standards (Russian Federation);
- 127.89 Take concrete steps to improve conditions in prisons and detention facilities in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Nelson Mandela Rules (Lithuania);
- 127.90 Continue efforts to improve conditions of detention and ensure adequate conditions of detention (Iraq);
- 127.91 Improve conditions in prisons and take effective measures against overcrowding in line with international standards, including with the Nelson Mandela Rules (Germany);
- 127.92 Implement the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) to improve conditions of detention (Fiji);
- 127.93 Intensify efforts to bring the conditions of detention in places of deprivation of liberty in line with relevant international standards (Austria);
- 127.94 Broaden the mandate of the Council for the Prevention of Torture to include regular, unhindered and unannounced visits to all places where persons are deprived of their liberty, including psychiatric hospitals and

psychoneurological institutions, as well as residential institutions for children, in line with the Committee against Torture recommendation (Croatia);

127.95 Ensure that the Council for the Prevention of Torture, whose creation we note with satisfaction, can visit, within its mandate framework, regularly and unexpectedly all places where persons are deprived of their liberty, including psychiatric hospitals, psychoneurological institutions and establishments for minors (Luxembourg);

127.96 Take concrete steps to improve conditions in prisons and detention facilities, including by developing an integrated strategy to reduce the prisoner population, mobilizing all available resources and ensuring wider application of non-custodial measures as an alternative to imprisonment (Ireland);

127.97 Accelerate reforms to tackle the issues of overcrowding, adequate sanitation and access to health care in prisons and detention centres (Czechia);

127.98 Improve access to inclusive medical psychosocial and mental health services for all persons in detention, especially for those belonging to vulnerable groups (Austria);

127.99 Continue efforts in improving prison conditions and the treatment of people in detention, in particular for persons with disabilities, including with possible bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia);

127.100 Continue efforts undertaken in the fight against corruption and for the independence, efficiency and impartiality of justice (France);

127.101 Strengthen its efforts in implementing measures to combat corruption, especially in the justice sector (Slovakia);

127.102 Continue to make progress on judicial reforms and anti-corruption efforts, including through preventing selective prosecution and holding corrupt politicians to account (United States of America);

127.103 Take further steps to increase access to justice and trust in judiciary and enhance oversight mechanisms to fight corruption (Armenia);

127.104 Take further steps to ensure the independence, impartiality, accountability and transparency of the judiciary (Timor-Leste);

127.105 Carry out reforms for increased transparency in and independence of the justice sector, making best use of the opinion of the Council of Europe Venice Commission (Sweden);

127.106 Strengthen overall human rights protection by effectively reforming the justice sector in line with the Venice Commission's recommendations, including by guaranteeing a transparent, inclusive, timely, broadly consulted and consistent legal process, restoring the independence of both judicial and prosecutors systems, and ensuring the right to a fair and transparent justice process for all citizens (Netherlands);

127.107 Ensure the independence, impartiality and transparency of the judiciary, especially by protecting judges from all interference, by ensuring that any allegations of violations of the independence of the judiciary are investigated thoroughly, independently and impartially (Luxembourg);

127.108 Strengthen independence of the judiciary system by ensuring transparency of appointment of judges, combating corruption and eliminating connections to organized crime (Lithuania);

127.109 Take steps to ensure that justice reforms and reforming of court system guarantees independence of the judiciary and creates equal access to justice, including to human rights cases (Estonia);

127.110 Continue working to guarantee the independence, impartiality and transparency of the judiciary (Chile);

127.111 Guarantee the right to freedom of expression by ensuring the media regulator and competition authority function correctly and objectively, and by ensuring that the state broadcaster, Teleradio Moldova, provides space and a platform for an objective, balanced, national conversation on political issues by all (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

127.112 Promote policies to increase media pluralism, encourage independent media, and ensure that journalists are able to receive information of public interest and carry out their professional activities without fear of harassment (United States of America);

127.113 Take steps to ensure the independence of the broadcasting regulatory authority to enable investigative journalists to carry out their work in exposing human rights violations in the Republic of Moldova, including in the autonomous region of Gagauzia, and in the secessionist region of Transnistria (Canada);

127.114 Take necessary measures to strengthen media freedom and the protection of journalists (Cyprus);

127.115 Continue the ongoing efforts to create a safe environment to exercise the right to freedom of expression and ensure media independence and pluralism (Italy);

127.116 Ensure strengthening of freedom of expression online and offline, as well as media pluralism and transparency of media ownership (Lithuania);

127.117 Ensure freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with its international obligations (Russian Federation);

127.118 Guarantee an environment that favours the activities of journalists and the freedom and pluralism of the media (Slovakia);

127.119 Adopt comprehensive national legislation in order to facilitate access to information, foster media pluralism and protect independent media in compliance with international human rights standards (Austria);

127.120 Strengthen the freedom of the press and the independence of the media by adopting legislation ensuring genuine media pluralism and punishing the manipulation of information (France);

127.121 Intensify efforts to enable the media to work without undue interference or intimidation, including when investigating corruption cases and reporting on demonstrations (Belgium);

127.122 Stop pressure and other forms of intimidation and harassment on independent journalists, in particular who reported on corruption (Islamic Republic of Iran);

127.123 Adopt a specific regulatory framework for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists with a sufficient budget, as well as appropriate action planning by the competent human rights authorities and involving the Ministry of the Interior (Spain);

127.124 Take the necessary measures to ensure non-discrimination of minority religious groups and to guarantee effective respect for the secularity of the State and the right to religious freedom (Spain);

127.125 Promote ongoing efforts related to the improvement of electoral processes (Turkey);

127.126 Further strengthen efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and gender-based violence, including by providing accessible and inclusive support and assistance to victims (Albania);

127.127 Invest additional efforts in strengthening investigation and prosecution of trafficking in human beings, especially in cases of crimes against children (Armenia);

- 127.128 Continue to effectively combat human trafficking (China);
- 127.129 Implement further measures to combat trafficking in persons and strengthen victim protection and support (Georgia);
- 127.130 Increase the number of labour inspectors to enable them to play a front-line role in the prevention and identification of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 127.131 Redouble efforts to effectively investigate acts of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labour, and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators (Iraq);
- 127.132 Continue measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in accordance with the international standards (Israel);
- 127.133 Step up its efforts to investigate acts of trafficking effectively and to prosecute and punish perpetrators (Malaysia);
- 127.134 Strengthen the support system for victims of human trafficking, including medical services, psychosocial counselling, legal assistance, shelters, and rehabilitation and reintegration programmes (Chile);
- 127.135 Ensure the allocation of sufficient resources for protection and support services for victims of trafficking in persons especially women and children (Philippines);
- 127.136 Continue its efforts in strengthening measures to combat human trafficking, including through the establishment of the National Mechanism for the Protection and Assistance of Victims of Crime (Qatar);
- 127.137 Step up its efforts to combat poverty (Timor-Leste);
- 127.138 Continue to take measures to eradicate malnutrition among women and children (India);
- 127.139 Continue to take greater measures so that all the people in the Republic of Moldova have access to safe and clean water (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 127.140 Continue its efforts to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation, with a particular focus on rural areas (Bangladesh);
- 127.141 Redouble the efforts to improve safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities in rural areas (India);
- 127.142 Continue to implement the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030” to promote sustainable economic and social development (China);
- 127.143 Continue to strengthen its successful social policies in favour of its people, with special attention to the most disadvantaged sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);⁴
- 127.144 Continue promoting steady economic development in order to further improve living standards of its people (Algeria);
- 127.145 Take effective measures to promote economic development in order to improve the quality of life of people in Moldova (Turkmenistan);

⁴ The recommendation included in the written statement as shared by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela ahead of the review was as follows: “*Venezuela felicita al Gobierno de la República de Moldova y le recomienda seguir fortaleciendo sus acertadas políticas sociales en favor de su pueblo, con especial atención en los sectores más necesitados de la población.*” The participation of the recommending State was virtual. Due to a technical problem, the virtual link was temporarily interrupted during the delivery of the statement and the recommending State, having no knowledge of this interruption, continued with its statement. The interruption occurred after “*su pueblo*”, and the virtual link was re-established at the very end of the intervention. The full recommendation is included here, following the decision of the troika and with the consent of the State under review.

- 127.146 **Adopt additional measures to reduce the incidence of maternal and child mortality, as well as to ensure that all births are registered (Brazil);**
- 127.147 **Improve the availability and accessibility of health services, including in rural areas, and address the barriers which were preventing the most vulnerable and poor members of society from accessing necessary medical services (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 127.148 **Scale up access to comprehensive sexuality education in schools and vocational training institutions in line with its Nairobi Summit commitment (Iceland);**
- 127.149 **Ensure the right to education is guaranteed to all, without discrimination of any kind (Maldives);**
- 127.150 **Guarantee the right to compulsory and free education for all children at primary and secondary levels and pursue efforts aimed at improving access to education, in particular for Roma children and children from poor families (Luxembourg);**
- 127.151 **Strengthen measures to ensure the integration of the principles of diversity, equality and non-discrimination in the educational process (Bangladesh);**
- 127.152 **Take measures to ensure that all children, including those who are in the most vulnerable situations, such as Roma and children with disabilities, can enjoy their right to inclusive and quality education (Uruguay);**
- 127.153 **Further undertake measures for ensuring equal and safe access to education for all children, in the context of the remote education imposed by the pandemic (Romania);**
- 127.154 **Ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to quality education without discrimination (Qatar);**
- 127.155 **Strengthen efforts to include children with special educational needs in the education system, by equipping schools with buses adapted to the needs of children with disabilities (Marshall Islands);**
- 127.156 **Take measures to ensure inclusive education for all children with disabilities (Malta);**
- 127.157 **Continue developing needed legal and institutional frameworks and strategies to promote gender equality; prevent all forms of discrimination against marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities; and combat human trafficking (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 127.158 **Take concrete measures to promote gender equality, in particular at the workplace and on the equal participation of women in decision-making processes and in economic and political life (Portugal);**
- 127.159 **Take steps to support greater participation and representation of women in public and political affairs (Philippines);**
- 127.160 **Develop and implement policies and programs to facilitate integration of women in the labour market and to reduce gender pay gap (Lithuania);**
- 127.161 **Eliminate the gender pay gap and adopt a legislative framework to enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value (Iceland);**
- 127.162 **Implement specific measures that contribute to guarantee greater gender equality and employment (Dominican Republic);**
- 127.163 **Continue to take measures aimed at strengthening women's empowerment in political, social and economic spheres (Bulgaria);**

- 127.164 Increase women's participation in decision-making, as well as prevent and address gender-based violence (Canada);
- 127.165 Centre further efforts on economic empowerment of women, especially for those in vulnerable situations or those from the minority backgrounds (Armenia);
- 127.166 Continue to promote gender equality and better protect the rights of women and children (China);
- 127.167 Promote policies to support the family as the fundamental and natural unit of society (Egypt);
- 127.168 Combat and criminalize all forms of violence against women (Egypt);
- 127.169 Continue efforts to support gender equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence (Tunisia);
- 127.170 Strengthen its laws and policies to combat domestic violence more effectively (Mongolia);
- 127.171 Ensure the effective investigation of all complaints of domestic and sexual violence, prosecution of perpetrators and the delivery of sentences proportionate to the seriousness of the violence committed (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 127.172 Ensure the effective investigation of all complaints of domestic and sexual violence, as well as attacks based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the prosecution of perpetrators (Austria);
- 127.173 Implement judicial reforms and improved legislation and policies based on international standards in the field of human rights in line with its ratification of the Istanbul Convention, and its adjoining recommendations (Canada);
- 127.174 Review sexual and gender-based violence-related legislation and policy to ensure availability and accessibility of legal aid for victims and survivors and that perpetrators are held to account (Australia);
- 127.175 Provide holistic specialist support services for women experiencing violence, including social assistance and economic empowerment, in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Belgium);
- 127.176 Take steps to ensure that laws providing protection against domestic and gender-based violence are efficiently implemented and that victims are protected and provided with necessary assistance (Czechia);
- 127.177 Provide essential and specialist support services for victims of gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Iceland);
- 127.178 Plan concrete actions to improve protection of and support to victims of domestic violence as well as to ensure that legal aid is available to all victims of violence in order to ensure comprehensive approach to domestic violence, as previously recommended (Slovenia);
- 127.179 Implement the Istanbul Convention and take measures to ensure access to justice and legal aid for victims of domestic and sexual violence and develop specialized services for women survivors of violence (Finland);
- 127.180 Ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Convention in order to combat all forms of violence against women, particularly domestic violence (France);
- 127.181 Fully implement the Istanbul Convention into domestic laws and policies, to protect and support victims (Israel);

- 127.182 Continue to implement the Istanbul Convention by adapting national legislation and allocating necessary cross-sectoral resources (Sweden);
- 127.183 Finalize the internal procedures necessary to give full implementation to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Italy);
- 127.184 Ensure effective implementation of the Istanbul Convention (Croatia);
- 127.185 Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officials in dealing with cases of gender-based violence and applying the national legislation on violence against women (Montenegro);
- 127.186 Continue existing efforts to enhance the protection of children from all forms of violence, including sexual violence (Tunisia);
- 127.187 Step up the country's efforts to address the situation of children in vulnerable situations, including the root causes of children in the "street situations" phenomenon (Poland);
- 127.188 Establish facilities and institutions where victims of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child sexual abuse can find a safe space and be provided government resources to combat the vicious cycle of dependence (Marshall Islands);
- 127.189 Abolish disciplinary solitary confinement for juveniles (Marshall Islands);
- 127.190 Strengthen efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to health, education and social services and ensure their full integration in society (Fiji);
- 127.191 Continue taking concrete measures to promote the rights of those living with disabilities, including by effectively addressing discrimination in the public and private sectors (Malaysia);
- 127.192 Organize public awareness-raising and education programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities (Maldives);
- 127.193 Ensure effective means of implementation to address structural problems in providing social care services to people with disabilities and access to quality education and employment to persons with disabilities (India);
- 127.194 Enhance the measures for protection of the rights of children and persons with disabilities (Turkey);
- 127.195 Adopt a comprehensive and effective monitoring system in neuropsychological residential institutions and psychiatric hospitals with a view to eliminate any instances of abuse and ill-treatment of their residents (Poland);
- 127.196 Continue efforts to ensure the right of persons with disabilities to live independently through enhancing implementation of the national action plans for deinstitutionalization and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, including development of alternative community-based social services and improving accessibility and access to assisting technologies (Finland);
- 127.197 Expedite the development of a strategy for the deinstitutionalization of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Brazil);
- 127.198 Adopt measures aimed at guaranteeing the right to a dignified life for persons with disabilities, seeking to reduce the rate of institutionalization in pursuit of their effective social integration (Argentina);
- 127.199 Develop and adopt a cross-sectoral strategy on early detection and intervention for children with disabilities, which will be supported by adequate budget allocations and human resources (Bulgaria);

127.200 Continue with measures that contribute to the realization of the rights of the national minorities (Georgia);

127.201 Take effective measures aimed at ensuring and expanding the participation of minorities in political life and the full involvement of this category of persons in the work of State bodies (Russian Federation);

127.202 Continue efforts to promote the social inclusion of minorities, especially the Roma, and combat discriminatory practices against them (Tunisia);

127.203 Take steps to ensure Roma people are accorded equal rights, including protection from violence and discrimination, and access to government services (Australia);

127.204 Establish appropriate mechanisms to combat stigmatization and discrimination against Roma through training of law enforcement and public service personnel in both the public and private sectors (Spain);

127.205 Effectively combat against hate crimes towards minorities, including Roma (Islamic Republic of Iran);

127.206 Intensify efforts to protect the rights of persons belonging to minority groups, together with ethnic and religious groups, including Jews (Cyprus);

127.207 Take effective legislative measures to prevent the displacement of the Russian language as the language of inter-ethnic communication from all areas of the life of the State and society (Russian Federation);

127.208 Endorse and implement the United Nations Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Indonesia);

127.209 Accelerate efforts aimed at promoting socioeconomic integration of migrants in the society (Pakistan).

128. 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. Iulian Rusu, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the UN Office in Geneva;
- Mr. Victor Lăpușneanu, Head of the Council of Europe and Human Rights Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration;
- Ms. Diana Doros, Head of the Human Rights Coordination and Social Dialogue Division, State Chancellery;
- Mr. Vasile Cușca, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Mr. Mircea Păscăluță, State Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development;
- Mr. Valeriu Berlinschi, Senior Consultant, Human Rights Coordination and Social Dialogue Directorate, State Chancellery;
- Mr. Alexandru Ghețu, Head of the Labour Relations Policies Directorate, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Anna Gherganova, Head of the Directorate for Employment Policies and Labour Migration Regulation, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Lilia Pascal, Head of the Directorate for Policies for Equality between Women and Men, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Lilia Herța, Head of the Directorate for Policies for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Mr. Igor Chișca, Head of the Directorate for Policies for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Families with Children, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Mr. Oleg Barcari, Head of the Directorate for Social Welfare for low-income families, the elderly and veterans, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Irina Corman, Senior Consultant, Social Security Policy Directorate, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Ecaterina Colomița, Head of Policy Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Raisa Dogaru, Head of the National Agency for Employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Irina Banova, Head of the National Agency for Social Assistance, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Marcela Țirdea, Head of Policy, analysis, monitoring and evaluation Division, Ministry of Health;
- Mr. Maxim Donici, Head of the Legal Service, Ministry of Health;
- Mr. Alexandru Tocarjevschi, Head of the Public Policy and Security Directorate, Chief Commissioner, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Nicolina Cramarenco, Head a.i. of the Legal Service, Ministry of Environment;
- Mr. Petru Olaru, Member of the Superior Council of Magistracy;
- Ms. Angela Motuzoc, Chairperson of the Superior Council of Prosecutors;
- Ms. Mariana Cherpec, Prosecutor, Policy, Reform and Project Management Division, General Prosecutor's Office;

- Ms. Vera Petuhov, Deputy Head of the Agency for Interethnic Relations;
 - Ms. Tatiana Crestenco, Member of the National Audiovisual Council;
 - Mr. Grigore Chițanu, Head of the Legal Division, National Audiovisual Council;
 - Mr. Octavian Bivol, Seconded Prosecutor, Head of Continuing Education Division, National Institute of Justice;
 - Mr. Eugen Cara, Head of the Division for Assistance Projects, Reintegration Policy Bureau;
 - Ms. Malvina Condratiuc, Senior Consultant, Sectoral Reintegration Policies Division, Reintegration Policy Bureau;
 - Ms. Ilinca Paladi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the UN Office in Geneva.
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