



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

by the Republic of Moldova
in response to the Report of High Commissioner
on National Minorities Ms. Astrid Thors
(1062nd Permanent Council, 16th of July 2015)

Mr Chairperson,

We join the previous delegations in warmly welcoming the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ms. Astrid Thors back at the Permanent Council and thank her for the comprehensive and insightful presentation. The Republic of Moldova has aligned to the EU statement. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Moldova fully supports the mandate of the HCNM and commends the work carried out by the office High Commissioner in assisting participating states in implementing their commitments pertaining to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. We particularly value activities in the field of education, access to broadcast media and participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public life.

Let me reiterate on this occasion that the HCNM remains one of the OSCE institutions with which we enjoy an active, fruitful and multi-layered cooperation. Now I would like to refer to the points made by the High Commissioner regarding my country and her visit to Moldova in April.

Consolidation of inter-ethnic relations within the country and integration of national minorities have been the constant priorities of the successive Moldovan government. The draft strategy of integration of society, elaborated in close cooperation with the HCNM Office is currently undergoing inter-institutional coordination. In parallel, the Bureau of Inter-ethnic relations continues to collect the views of various communities through the public consultations process. Your recommendations, Madam High Commissioner, regarding the elaboration of a concrete action plan are duly noted. We expect to swiftly move ahead with the draft once the new Government is formed.

We are also thankful for assistance provided by the HCNM in facilitating the dialogue between central authorities and the Gagauz autonomy. The draft decision on creation of the Working Group between the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and People's Assembly of Gagauzia is on the agenda of the Parliament. We expect a discussion and eventually a decision on this matter by the end of this month. Besides consolidating the dialogue, creation of this working group would allow to address some systemic legislative issues and improve functioning of the autonomy. Apart from the agreement reached last week regarding the Public Prosecutor's Office mentioned in your report, I am also glad to inform that two days ago we launched in Comrat a project on simultaneous study of the Gagauz and state languages, supported by the HCNM.

We share the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner with regard to the mounting tensions in the wider region. It is true that the overall situation in the Transnistrian settlement process is affected by economic challenges on the left bank of Nistru, blockage of the 5+2 process by Tiraspol and other factors. Keeping stability and preventing tensions is among our key tasks at this stage. Therefore, we welcome constant attention and readiness of the HCNM to offer necessary assistance, in particular with regard to the situation of the Moldovan-administered Latin script-schools in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova.

In conclusion, we would like to thank once again Ms. Astrid Thors for her presentation and to wish her and her able team every success in future endeavours. We remain committed to continue the good cooperation on all issues of our agenda.

Thank you.