



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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UPR Working Group
17th Session
Universal Periodic Review of Saudi Arabia

Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
(Geneva, 21 October 2013)

Mr. President,

We would like to join previous speakers in welcoming the delegation of Saudi Arabia and thank the head of the delegation for the presentation of the Report.

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the ongoing reforms aimed at promoting respect for human rights in Saudi Arabia. [We acknowledge the positive effects generated by the amendments of the laws and regulations since the adoption of the previous UPR Report.]

[As a follow-up to the previous cycle, we note that recommendations on accession to the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)* and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)* were accepted by Saudi Arabia. We would therefore be interested in the current state and results of the examination undergone by the Human Rights Commission of Saudi Arabia in this regard.]

[The Republic of Moldova also takes note of the measures aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, including the promulgation of the *Trafficking in Persons Act* and the establishment of the *Standing Committee on Trafficking in Persons* and encourages Saudi Arabia to consolidate its efforts in enforcing the law.]

We welcome the endeavours undertaken to increase women participation in political and public life, *inter alia* by enabling women to acquire membership of the Shura Council and Municipal Councils. In this respect, we would like to encourage Saudi Arabia to consider increasing women representation in decision-making also at the regional government level.

The Republic of Moldova would like to make the following recommendations:

- *To enforce legislation that criminalizes all forms of violence against women, including the *Protection from Harm Act*, and establish a system of regular data collection on such crimes;*
- *To ensure protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, in particular children, by providing assistance and social reintegration services, and by advancing cooperation with countries of origin and transit;*
- *To continue the efforts in ensuring the rights of the migrant workers, including in terms of access to all social and health services.*

I thank you.