



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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UPR Working Group
18th Session
Universal Periodic Review of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
Delivered by H.E. Victor Moraru, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
(Geneva, 29 January 2014)

Mr. President,

Allow me to welcome the Macedonian delegation to the UPR Working Group. We note with appreciation the pro-active submission of a voluntary mid-term report in 2012 and thank the Macedonian delegation for the detailed national report and for today's informative presentation.

The Republic of Moldova commends the Macedonian Government for its continuous engagement with the international and regional human rights mechanisms and for the demonstrated commitment to implement recommendations arising from that dialogue.

We positively note the actions under the justice system reform and encourage the Macedonian authorities to continue enhancing the judiciary's independence.

We welcome the adoption of thematic time-bound strategies in the area of children's rights, domestic violence, trafficking in human beings and gender equality, and call for their adequate resourcing and full implementation.

While recognizing that the 2013 *Law on child protection* explicitly prohibits all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, we regret the reported rise in the number of such cases. Therefore, we invite the Macedonian delegation to share further data on child victims of these offences and the types of action taken as a result.

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

- 1. To improve prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for offences covered under the OP-CRC-SC, including through cooperation with neighboring countries;*
- 2. To ensure that children are not treated as adult offenders in the administration of juvenile justice and that they are deprived of their liberty only as a measure of last resort.*

In conclusion, we wish success to Macedonian Government in the implementation of the UPR 2nd cycle recommendations.

I thank you, Mr President.