



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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**UPR Working Group
19th Session
*Universal Periodic Review of Norway***

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
Delivered by Ms. Olga Bogdan, 2nd Secretary
(Geneva, 28 April 2014)**

Mr. President,

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

The Republic of Moldova commends the Norwegian Government for its firm stand on the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms both at the national and international levels.

Furthermore, we welcome the progress on the implementation of recommendations from the first UPR cycle. In particular, we positively note the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We also recognize the pro-active policies and programmes for integration of immigrants and securing equal access to the labour market.

As also observed by international and regional monitoring mechanisms, we commend Norway's leading role in international efforts to fight human trafficking, as well as the steps taken nationally to prevent and combat this phenomenon. We note however the challenges regarding the procedures and criteria for identifying victims of trafficking.

Bearing in mind this issue, we recommend Norway:

- 1. To adopt a formalized national referral mechanism defining the roles and procedures of all institutions in the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings;*

I thank you, Mr. President.