



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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UPR Working Group
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Universal Periodic Review of Portugal

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
Delivered by Ms. Olga Bogdan, 2nd Secretary
(Geneva, 30 April 2014)**

Mr. President,

Allow us to welcome the high-level delegation of Portugal and thank Mr. Bruno Maçães, Secretary of State of European Affairs, and Ms. Teresa Morais, Secretary of State of Parliamentary Affairs and Equality, for the comprehensive and detailed presentation.

We commend Portugal's commitment to democracy and human rights and applaud its active engagement with all human rights mechanisms, including the UPR.

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova notes with appreciation the creation of the National Human Rights Committee in 2010 and its role for an enhanced coordination and information sharing on human rights issues.

We also welcome the innovative measures introduced by the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue to promote integration of migrants, including the placement of intercultural mediators in the public service. In this context, we invite the delegation to elaborate on the objectives and priorities contained in the 2nd *Action Plan for Immigrant integration*.

Furthermore, we recognize the important steps to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, including the adoption of the 3rd *Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (2014-2017)* and the establishment of a system of identification of victims involving a multi-disciplinary team based in Porto. However, we note concerns expressed by UN Treaty Bodies with regard to the low number of convictions for human trafficking and gaps between the investigation procedure and presentation of cases in courts.

In this context, we recommend Portugal *to ensure the enforcement of the legal framework for the prosecution of human traffickers and appropriate assistance of victims.*

I thank you, Mr. President.