**UPR 26, November 4, 2016**

**Recommendations by Canada for the Republic of Moldova’s UPR**

Canada welcomes the legislative steps taken by Moldova to support the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Moldova’s implementation of the National Programme on Gender Equality.

Canada recommends that the Republic of Moldova:

1. Enhance the independence of the judiciary and strengthen rule of law through anti-corruption initiatives, increased transparency in the justice sector, and the elimination of external influence in judicial proceedings;
2. Review and amend relevant legislation, such as the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Offences, to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTI persons and of individuals belonging to vulnerable, minority populations, including religious communities and ethnic minorities, as well as amend Article 1 of the Law on Ensuring Equality to include sexual orientation and gender identity;
3. Continue to develop a policy framework and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat domestic violence that includes education and public awareness for rural areas, strengthened mechanisms to hold offenders to account, and enhanced training for law enforcement officials; and
4. Further strengthen public institutions to combat trafficking in persons, through dedicated resources, enhanced cooperation with civil society, and incorporating best practices.

**Observations**

Canada welcomes Moldova's efforts to develop legislative approaches that promote equality; creation of dedicated placement and rehabilitation centres for victims of violence; and enhanced legislation and supporting infrastructure to combat trafficking in persons.