**Universal Periodic Review 26 – Republic of Moldova**

**Statement by the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Netherlands thanks Moldova for the report and appreciates the inclusive way in which it has been produced. Broad consultations with all stakeholders, including civil society, are of key importance to advance human rights.

We encourage Moldova to keep up this practice also in follow-up to this session, including in the development and implementation of its revised National Human Rights Action Plan.

The Netherlands recommends Moldova:

1. To swiftly adopt and implement the *Strategy on Inclusive Diversity in the Republic of Moldova (2016-2020)*, which was developed with the support of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.
2. To step up efforts to investigate and act upon instances of hate speech and hate crime and to ensure effective access to justice for victims, including LGBTI persons and members of religious or ethnic minority communities.

The Netherlands appreciates a number of reforms, notably in the field of non-discrimination and the judicial system, where laws to reorganise the judicial system and a new law on the Prosecution Service were adopted. The Netherlands would like to stress that a strong legal or institutional set-up needs to be matched with equally solid implementation, and encourages Moldova to continue its efforts in this regard.

We thank Moldova for its commitment to the *Strategy on Inclusive Diversity*, and note that swift adoption followed by a robust implementation is imperative, including the development of an action plan and allocation of adequate resources.

Thank you Mr President.