**UPR Working Group**

***Universal Periodic Review of Turkmenistan***

**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova**

(*Geneva, 6 November 2023)*

Mr President,

Republic of Moldova welcomes the distinguished delegation of Turkmenistan and thanks the Government for the presentation of its national report.

We commend the Government of Turkmenistan for its efforts in promoting the human rights agenda as well as for its comprehensive Programme for Socioeconomic Development of the country, alongside the adoption of other sectorial Action Plans for a better promotion of women and children’s rights as well as countering trafficking in human beings.

In a constructive spirit we would like to make the following recommendations:

1. to strengthen national legislation in order to effectively eliminate all forms of gender-based violence, while strengthening support services and protection to victims.
2. to decriminalize abortions in cases other than threat to life of the mother and severe fetal impairment.
3. To ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Finally, we wish Turkmenistan every success during its UPR cycle.

I thank you, Mr. President.