**UPR Working Group**

***Universal Periodic Review of Uzbekistan***

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

 (*Geneva, 8 November 2023)*

Mr President,

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

We commend the efforts of the Government of Uzbekistan to implement the recommendations made during the previous UPR cycle and to advance its human rights agenda, notably the adoption of a new National Human Rights Strategy alongside other constituional laws ensuring the continuity of democratic reforms. We also congratulate the Government on its active public dialogue on new draft legislation.

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

1. to strengthen the independence of the Office of the Ombudsman and bring national human rights institutions into full compliance with the Paris Principles.
2. to enhance legislation in order to effectively counter violence against women while prosecuting and punishing perpetrators and ensuring access to remedies and protection to victims.
3. to enforce prohibition of child marriage alongside raising awareness of its harmful effects.

Finally, we wish Uzbekistan every success during its fourth UPR cycle.

I thank you, Mr. President.