**UPR Working Group**

**46th Session**

**UPR of North Macedonia**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

The Republic of Moldova warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Republic of North Macedonia to the UPR Working Group and thanks for the presentation of the national report.

This Delegation appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Government with a view to implement the recommendations received during its third UPR, positively noting the steps towards the ratification of several human rights instruments. Furthermore, we welcome legislative changes in the field of human rights aimed at harmonising with European directives and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights.

In order to strengthen the national efforts in promoting and protecting human rights, we would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ensure effective enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation and work towards proactive identification of victims of trafficking in human beings;
2. Take additional steps for ensuring gender equality by improving access to specialised services and shelters for victims of gender-based violence, especially in rural areas.
3. Continue efforts to improve living conditions, including through access to quality public services.

Finally, we wish the delegation of North Macedonia a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you, Mr. Vice-President