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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**Closing Remarks**

**by H.E. Mr. Iulian Rusu**

**State Secretary, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova**

Mr. President,

Excellences,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the democracy’s fundamental principles is protecting and promoting human rights. The Republic of Moldova will remain committed to strengthen the national tools designed for a systematic implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms.

The current exercise of the Universal Periodic Review, like the previous ones, has given us an excellent opportunity to map the progress made so far in guaranteeing civil, political, economic and social rights at the national level. The received recommendations formulated in respect to our state will be incorporated in the national policy documents.

I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat, the members of the Troika Group and the Member States for a constructive approach and for understanding the peculiarities of my country in this complex and comprehensive exercise. Taking into account the need to ensure outreach, visibility and disseminate recommendations on human rights at the national level, we thank the civil society for their support and committed partnership.

We will continue our efforts to increase the efficiency of the rules, institutions and the perception of each person as regards their rights and freedoms. We acknowledge the role of the UPR as a unique and universal tool to promote human rights developments and its positive impact. Moldova’s authorities will continue this extensive process to improve the legal framework and to ensure a continuous and efficient implementation for the human rights mechanisms.

We will continue to strengthen the role of the Ombudsman and the Equality Council, the National Preventive Mechanism, including by effectively applying the legal framework and promoting the national mechanism on human rights.

One of the key priorities remains the effective implementation of the current Human Rights Action Plan for 2018-2022, drafting and implementation of a new policy document post-2022, and increase efficiency of the National Human Rights Council in coordinating and monitoring the policies at the country level.

The Republic of Moldova will accelerate its efforts to promote efficient measures for the justice sector and anticorruption policies. We will address the effectiveness and competences of anti-corruption authorities, will continue to streamline the legal framework on the system of selection and promotion of judges and prosecutors. The legal process on external evaluation of judges and prosecutors has already been initiated, based on a comprehensive exercise of consultations with the Council of Europe and the key developing partners of the justice sector. The immediate priority of the country is to ensure that the new composition of the Supreme Council of Magistrates and the Supreme Council of Prosecutors is based on merit and integrity.

Digitalization of justice continuous institutional capacity-building of courts, prosecutors’ offices and justice professions are among essential tasks to be carried in order to increase the quality and accessibility of justice. A key challenge is to eliminate the currently prevailing perception about the lack of integrity within judicial system and its stakeholders.

It is our commitment to remain devoted to build a robust society based on the rule of law, adjust the implementation of national legislation and practices to the international standards.

Thank you very much for this invaluable exercise!