**Statement by Romania**

**The 40th session of the UPR Working Group: Review of the Republic of Moldova**

**January 28th, 2022**

Mr. Chair,

Romania welcomes Republic of Moldova’s delegation to the UPR Working Group session and thanks it for the comprehensive report and presentation.

Romania would like to commend Republic of Moldova for its commitments towards strengthening the respect for human rights in the country and for the important efforts and achievements in advancing the national human rights legal and policy and institutional frameworks since the previous examination cycle. We highlight in this respect the legal improvements and positive developments with regard to the gender equality, for instance through the recent ratification of the Istanbul Convention or the progress in women’s representation in politics and decision-making process, despite some remaining challenges that still need to be addressed.

We very much welcome the inclusion in the Report of the main outstanding challenges and priorities for the next period which proves Republic of Moldova’s consciousness and engagement in ensuring their follow-up. We encourage it to take measure for ensuring the continuation throughout the next years of sectoral strategies and action plans’ implementation as many of them ended during the last two years.

Romania would like to recommend Republic of Moldova to:

1. Continue implementing the current Action Plan for Human Rights and develop a new policy document post-2022;
2. Consider developing a new strategic document that ensures the continuation of the implementation of the Civil Society Development Strategy 2018-2020;
3. Implement the Action Plan for 2021-2024 on promoting Holocaust remembrance and the culture of tolerance in order to combat racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance;
4. Continue the efforts in view of promoting the human rights and assisting the victims of human rights violations in the Transnistrian region;
5. Further undertake measures for ensuring equal and safe access to education for all children, in the context of the remote education imposed by the pandemic.

We wish Republic of Moldova’s delegation a successful outcome of the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. Chair !