**National Statement by Mr. Umair Khalil, Third Secretary during the 3rd UPR Review of Moldova**

**40th UPR Session**

**25 January 2022**

**Mr. President,**

We thank the delegation of Moldova for presenting its 3rd UPR report.

We welcome Moldova’s efforts to strengthen human rights framework including accreditation of the Office of the People’s Advocate with A status in line with the Paris Principles as well as implementation of National Action Plan on Human Rights.

However, we remain concerned over reports of rising incidents of discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes against individuals belonging to certain groups including Muslims. We echo calls by Treaty Bodies for strengthening of anti-discrimination legislation.

Absence of effective integration of migrants and refugee communities including in political, economic and social spheres is also a matter of concern and requires necessary corrective measures.

We recommend Moldova to:

1. Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation in line with ICERD provisions.
2. Take steps to counter racism and hate speech against Muslims by amending Criminal Code and incorporating elements in the Action Plan for combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.
3. Accelerate efforts aimed at promoting socio-economic integration of migrants in the society.

I thank you.