**Universal Periodic Review of Serbia**

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

Thank you, Mr. Vicepresident,

The Republic of Moldova warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Serbia to the UPR Working Group and we express appreciation for the presentation of the national report.

First of all we would like to extend our deepest condolences to the people of Serbia and to the families of those deceased during the terrible school shooting that took place in Belgrade, while wishing a speedy recovery to those injured.

We commend Serbia for the adoption of Law on gender equality and the corresponding Strategy, as well as for new legislation aimed at preventing and combatting discrimination. We also welcome the consolidation of the institution of Protector of Citizens, enhancing the independence and the responsibilities of the Ombudsman.

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

1. To consider ratifying the Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the communication procedure.
2. To increase actions in order to effectively and systemically prevent and fight trafficking in human beings, with a focus on women and children.

To conclude we wish Serbia a successful UPR cycle.

Thank you.