



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE OSCE

PC.DEL/792/16  
3 June 2016

ENGLISH only

## **STATEMENT**

by the Republic of Moldova  
in response to the Report of High Commissioner  
on National Minorities Ms. Astrid Thors  
(1102<sup>nd</sup> Permanent Council, June 2, 2016)

Mr. Chairman,

We warmly welcome the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ms. Astrid Thors at the Permanent Council and thank her for presenting the comprehensive report. The Republic of Moldova aligned to the European Union statement. In addition, we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

The Republic of Moldova strongly supports the mandate and autonomy of the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We highly appreciate the activities carried out by the High Commissioner in assisting participating states in implementing their commitments related to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. My country has significantly benefited from the expertise and assistance provided by the High Commissioner. Throughout the years, the Republic Moldova has developed a record of productive and fruitful cooperation with the Office of the HCNM on a wide range of issues, including strengthening inter-ethnic cohesion in Moldova, developing important projects in the area of education and language training, consolidating interaction between the central government and the Gagauzia, access to broadcast media and participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public life etc. Your report, Madam High Commissioner, comes just a week from your visit to the Republic Moldova, which was a productive one and marked the positive dynamic of cooperation between Moldova and the HCNM Office.

Mr. Chairman,

Consolidation of inter-ethnic relations within the country has been the constant priority of the successive Moldovan government. We value and count on the assistance and cooperation with the HCNM in ensuring the social cohesion, promoting tolerance and developing a stronger society. Let me reiterate our gratitude to the Office of the HCNM in providing the expertise on drafting the National Strategy on strengthening interethnic relations in the Republic of Moldova. Indeed, this document went through very extensive consultations with all political actors and representatives of the civil society from Moldova. We will now advance with its adoption, in close consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Equally, we would like to express our gratitude for the assistance provided by the HCNM in strengthening the dialogue between Chisinau and Comrat, which remains a important priority for the Moldovan authorities. As it is noted in the Report, the Permanent Joint Working Group composing members of the Parliament and the

People's Assembly of Gagauzia was set in November 2015 and the HCNM had a valuable contribution in this regard. We remain committed to make this Working Group a sustainable one and we count on HCNM's support.

We would like to thank the office High Commissioner for its high attention to Moldovan administered Latin script schools in the Transnistrian region, and in the context of restarting negotiations in "5+2" format on Transnistrian settlement process, we are looking forward to undertake a comprehensive and sustainable solution in this matter.

Before concluding, let me once again to thank Ms. Astrid Thors for her insightful report and wish her and her able team every success in their endeavors.

Thank you.