



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

by the Republic of Moldova
in response to the Report of High Commissioner
on National Minorities Ms. Astrid Thors
(1078th Permanent Council, 19 November 2015)

Mr Chairperson,

We warmly welcome the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ms. Astrid Thors back at the Permanent Council and thank her for the comprehensive and informative presentation. While aligning to the EU Statement, I would like to make few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Moldova has been **supporting the mandate** and initiatives of the High Commissioner, which make a valuable contribution to the whole concept of comprehensive security of the OSCE. We commend the engagement of the High Commissioner Ms. Astrid Thors in promoting the inter-ethnic dialogue within the OSCE area and the assistance provided to participating States in implementing their commitments pertaining to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. My country enjoys a very good cooperation with the office of the HCNM in different areas, including education, language training and development of the national strategy on social integration of national minorities. Despite the current internal political developments, we remain committed to continue our positive engagement with the HCNM across the whole spectrum of cooperation.

The **social integration** of the national minorities remains one the priorities of the Moldovan Government. We appreciate the valuable contribution of the HCNM in developing the Strategy for the National Minorities. The drafting and consultations process of the document proved to be a complex and a multifaceted one. Currently the process of the consultations with the responsible public institutions on the draft Strategy is close to be finalized.

The future Strategy is an important and necessary framework for consolidating the cohesion of the Moldovan society. Equally, it is seen as a capacity building tool for further tackling sensitive aspects related to ethnic minorities at the national and regional levels.

In the same way, we value the support of the HCNM in facilitating the dialogue between the Moldovan central authorities and the Gagauz autonomy, in particular in relation to **setting up the Working Group** between the Parliament of the Republic of

Moldova and the People's Assembly of Gagauzia. As we have noted previously, the decision to establish this group is on the agenda of the Parliament and it may be adopted during the current fall session of the legislative body.

We appreciate the contribution of the HCNM Office in monitoring the situation of the **Latin script schools** administered by the Moldovan authorities in the Transnistrian region. We remain committed to continue our efforts, including intensifying the activity of the Working Group on education, with the aim to achieve a sustainable solution for ensuring the normal functioning of these schools. Having said this, we are concerned with attempts since the beginning of this year to unilaterally increase the rent price for some schools by the local administrations from the Transnistrian region in contradiction with the earlier agreed rent contracts for all 8 schools.

Speaking on the educational issues, we continue to implement projects on the multilingual education for schools teaching in minority languages. Currently, this program is extended to 32 institutions. HCNM provided a relevant expertise for this initiative as well as the financial support. This is a very relevant example to the HCNM targeted contribution in such an important area as education.

Before concluding, we thank once again Ms. Astrid Thors for her interesting presentation and to wish her and her able team every success in future endeavors.

Thank you.