

**OPENING REMARKS**

**On the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bureau for Interethnic Relations  
of the Republic of Moldova**

**Ambassador Michael Scanlan**

Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova

**Chisinau, 15 December 2015**

Your Excellency dear Mr. President Snegur, dear Director of the Bureau for interethnic relations Ms. Bolohan, dear former directors of the Bureau, dear ladies and gentlemen,

I am happy to be here to wish the Bureau for Interethnic Relations a very happy 25th anniversary. Your work is very important to Moldova's future as a state where diverse ethnic groups live together and respect each other. Moldova's multi-ethnicity is a distinctive quality which has the potential to make your country more prosperous.

Your work is very challenging, therefore on this occasion I wish you perseverance and dedication to your mission. I also would like to thank you on this occasion for the excellent working relationship that my Mission and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities have enjoyed with your team over the years.

Today, I have asked that my remarks be translated into Russian, as this language allows for easy communication with many among you. It is our hope that the government of Moldova will make it possible for those who do not speak the state language to learn it in the future. We in the OSCE have tried to support that process with the ANTEM program and the pilot bilingual kindergarten program in Gagauzia. Ensuring that all citizens of Moldova can speak with each other easily, while at the same time preserving the richness of the country's diversity, will allow Moldova to harness the talents of all of its citizens to promote a prosperous future for Moldova to the betterment of all its citizens.

It is my strong belief that languages should unite people and not divide them. The work you do every day advances the cause of such unity among all citizens of Moldova, and the HCNM and OSCE Mission to Moldova stand ready to support you.

I wish all of you a joyful celebration of this anniversary, happy birthday to the Bureau!

!La multi ani!, С днём рождения!