

**Written contribution
by the Republic of Moldova
on behalf of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Chairmanship-in-
Office
in the framework of the 16th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
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It is indeed a great pleasure and honor to address you on behalf of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova to the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP).

The SEECP framework of cooperation, which is the leading political forum in the region, has gained a new dimension for the regional cooperation process as a prerequisite for the consolidation of mutual trust, strengthening the stability and security in the region and as a complementary and indispensable component on the way towards the European integration.

As an integral part of the enhanced dialogue among the South East European states, the SEECP Participating States share a common vision for the future of the region with open societies based on the rule of law, democratic institutions and respect for universal human rights, being firmly engaged in the continuous development of the regional cooperation, which is in the long-lasting interests of the people of the SEECP participating states.

Recognizing OSCE's role in helping participating states respond better to emerging threats and challenges to security, including unresolved conflicts in the Eurasian area, the SEECP is contributing to these efforts by constantly shaping and improving its profile, by applying the regional ownership and leadership principle, proving thus its maturity and dedicated political will.

One of the greatest achievements of the regional cooperation in the region in setting up and launch of the new regional cooperation instrument and mechanism – Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) – which, by all means, promotes and supports mutual cooperation and European perspective of the South East European region. In this sense, an important and catalyst role should be given to the Regional Cooperation Council, in its capacity of a regional cooperation mechanism and viable actor in the South East European region, in particular with regard to its cooperation with the SEECP countries and as a key interlocutor with the European and international community.

Furthermore, the SEECP Participating States support the increased role the RCC is gaining in its project-oriented overall activity and creation of a suitable political climate to implementing projects of a wider regional character in the priority areas of cooperation, providing the SEECP with necessary operational capacities, acting as a forum for the continued involvement of the international and European communities engaged in the region.

The OSCE has long proved its valuable role as the best forum for dialogue on issues of major importance in the Euro-Atlantic area, uniting efforts to address common challenges with other international and regional organizations. Bearing in mind the tremendous importance of an enhanced regional cooperation process, allow me to reiterate, on behalf of the SEECP Chairmanship, the commitment, engagement and devotion of the South East European region in striving for the accomplishment of the long-lasting objectives of ensuring and preserving stability, security, as well as sustainability and prosperity of its people.