

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



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**STATEMENT
BY
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**TO THE 59-TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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New York**

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to emphasize that I feel myself, indeed, very honoured and privileged to participate, for the first time, in the work of the United Nations General Assembly and to represent the Republic of Moldova at this high rostrum.

On behalf of the Moldovan delegation, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your well deserved election. I am confident that your vast experience and diplomatic skills will help this session to fulfill its important tasks.

I join other speakers in expressing our gratitude to your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Julian Robert Hunte, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saint Lucia, for the dedicated and effective manner in which he had guided the work of the previous session.

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

This has indeed been a difficult year for the Organization. Serious crises have occurred in different parts of the world. More and more, the international community is being faced with the conflicts within states. We have been witnessing new painful manifestations of the conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, North Caucasus, etc. This 59th General Assembly is being conducted under the menacing shadows of the recurrent tensions in Iraq and continuing threat posed by the international terrorism.

All of us are preoccupied with the implications and consequences of the crisis in Iraq. The Republic of Moldova considers that the United Nations has to be engaged in a more consistent way in helping this country to stabilize its situation and to embark on the path towards recovery, development and democracy.

Earlier in Spain and Turkey and, most recently, in the Russian Federation, we have seen how terrorism - this scourge of the 21st century, strikes the innocent, including children indiscriminately. We strongly believe that the terrorist acts must be considered as crimes against humanity and all the governments should treat them as such. The Republic of Moldova strongly condemns all terrorist acts, for which can be no excuse or justification.

We pay homage to the victims of this violence.

But the victims of terrorism, the people in all the crisis-stricken areas expect from us more than just words of compassion. The United Nations must be capable of responding effectively to these and other challenges, such as the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development, the protection of environment, the respect of human rights, the control of epidemics and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We need an efficient and relevant organization, able to deal with the modern threats.

Precisely for this purposes, Mr. President, the Republic of Moldova fully supports the ongoing reform process of the United Nations system.

A key aspect of this process is the reform of the Security Council. Too often this main body has been accused of failures in the maintenance of international peace and security. It is essential, therefore, to make it more efficient in discharging its primary responsibility. Efficiency of the Security Council can be achieved, in our view, by improving its representativeness, legitimacy, transparency, accountability as well as by restricting the right of veto to issues on substance, as provided by the UN Charter.

The Republic of Moldova shares the view that the reform of the United Nations system will be successful only if the reform of the Security Council is followed by the reform of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. We support the momentum established towards the revitalization of the General Assembly as well as strengthening the coordination functions of the ECOSOC in the social and economic fields. An effective coordination among these three main bodies is essential if we want to address in a comprehensive way the urgent problems of today's world.

In the new circumstances, the United Nations should continue to improve its capacity in the field of peacekeeping, which is an important instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. We support the actions aimed at enhancing the UN rapid deployment capabilities through the UN standby arrangements. Given this context, I would like to mention that Moldova has committed itself to contribute with troops to UNSAS as a result of yesterday's signing at the DPKO a formal document in that regard. Within the UN peacekeeping efforts the Republic of Moldova is already present with military observers and staff officers in the United Nations missions in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. We are determined to continue to support the UN activities in this area.

It is of crucial importance to further strengthen the United Nations anti-terrorist legal framework. The Republic of Moldova fully supports the current efforts oriented towards conclusion of a *Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism* as well as of a *Comprehensive International Convention on International Terrorism*. In particular, we believe that with the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention, some very sensitive and complex political and legal issues will be solved and, consequently, the existing gaps in the legal regime of the anti-terrorist cooperation will be filled. It is only through developing and implementing the network of anti-terrorist instruments that the international community can effectively ensure that terrorists find no safe heaven by which they can continue their criminal activities.

Mr. President,

I would like to commend the UN Secretary General for his many initiatives aimed at making effective the Organization. The creation of the *High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change* is another important step in that direction. Like other Member States, the Republic of Moldova looks forward to concrete recommendations from the Panel on how to tackle the contemporary threats, including the newly ones such as intrastate conflicts, terrorism and separatism.

We cannot expect realistically to win the war against international terrorism as long as the regional and internal conflicts remain unsolved and their root causes are not properly addressed.

Recently terrorism has been increasingly merging with separatism. There is also the risk that non-State actors might one day acquire weapons of mass destruction, a threat explicitly recognized by the Security Council when it adopted the resolution 1540.

In this context, I would like to add my voice to those who have repeatedly warned in recent years against the danger posed by aggressive separatism. Separatism has indeed turned into one of the main sources of internal conflicts and regional instability. The existence of separatist entities artificially created as mechanisms for achieving the interests of political and criminal groups from certain states cannot be anymore ignored.

The United Nations and, first of all, the Security Council, should decisively suppress any manifestations of separatism and consistently defend the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized states' borders. Any settlement models that attempt to distort the notion of statehood and State sovereignty provide, in fact, the legal framework to the ideology of aggressive separatism, and should be strictly rejected by the international community and United Nations. It is also necessary to resolutely condemn and eliminate instances of encouragement and support for separatist forces and secessionist entities from outside.

Mr. President,

Regretfully, separatism continues to be the main obstacle in the path of consolidation of the independence and statehood of the Republic of Moldova, its economic development, hence blocking the achievement of strategic internal and external objectives of the country. Over the years, the Republic of Moldova has systematically informed relevant international organizations on the danger the persistency of the political conflict in its eastern region poses to regional and international peace and security.

The settlement of the conflict has become the country's absolute priority. To this end a number of concrete actions were undertaken. The initiatives put forward by the Republic of Moldova in recent years reflect the determination and political will of Moldovan authorities to resolve this political conflict peacefully, on the basis of the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. In particular, I would like to underline the initiative of the President of the Republic of Moldova on the establishment of a Joint Constitutional Commission tasked with drafting a new Constitution, as well as on certain steps aimed at countering illegal and criminal economic activities of the separatist regime, promoting and consolidating values of consensus and trust in a reintegrated society. At the same time I would like to emphasize the intensification of our diplomatic efforts and contacts with the most influential states and international organizations with a view to identify a lasting and irreversible political solution.

Despite the constructive approach by Moldovan authorities in their dialogue both with the self-appointed transnistrian leaders and other participants in the multilateral framework of negotiations, the course of events has demonstrated the inefficiency of the negotiations. It has also become obvious that the separatist leaders do not sincerely wish for the country's reintegration. In this regard, I should mention, *inter alia*, the recent closure of Moldovan schools using Latin script, the inhuman treatment of children, ethnic discrimination of employees of the State Railway Company displayed during the illegal occupation by force of its regional facilities, violation of the right to free movement of inhabitants from localities under Moldovan jurisdiction and the disconnection from water and energy supplies. We are also deeply concerned about the human rights situation in the area controlled by separatist forces. The separatist regime has systematically violated most human rights, including the right of association, right to a fair trial, freedom from torture, freedom of movement and, especially the right to education all of these hindering the democratization process within the region.

This region remains an area of illegal production and trafficking of arms. Given the "transparency" of the Transnistrian section of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border there are no guarantees that the illegally produced or trafficked armaments will not reach in the future other conflicts zones. Under these conditions I would like to reaffirm our strong belief that the deployment of an international monitoring mission under the auspices of OSCE and EU along the border between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine will substantially contribute to the prevention and elimination of such risks and will facilitate the identification of a solution for the transnistrian problem.

At the same time we encountered the biased attitude on behalf of involved parties, reflected in the support of smuggling and obvious violations of existing bilateral and international agreements. We deem it necessary to modify the components of peacekeeping mechanism and to replace it with a new one under international mandate.

Considering that the interests of regional stability and security require an objective and impartial approach, it is necessary to ensure full respect for international law and democratic standards and, more importantly, the abandonment of any geopolitical and geo-economical interests and designs through maintaining *a status-quo*. The strict fulfillment of the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit decisions would harmoniously fit such an approach.

Also, as it has already been mentioned during the current debate we have to exclude the practice of double standards when dealing with internal conflicts and instruments of their settlement.

The Republic of Moldova irreversibly embarked upon the road of European integration, which is the cornerstone of its foreign policy. We are determined to make full use of the opportunities provided by the recent EU enlargement to promote stability, security and well-being. The Republic of Moldova is confident that it will successfully implement the provisions of the EU-Moldova Action Plan and will meet all the criteria necessary for a new contractual relationship with the EU that will open the perspective for EU membership.

The reintegration of the country and consolidation of democratic values on its entire territory are essential conditions for the European integration of the Republic of Moldova. It is in this context that the President of the Republic of Moldova has launched the initiative on Stability and Security Pact for Moldova. This document is aimed at ensuring consensus among the Parties concerned in order to guarantee the development of an independent, sovereign and integral Moldovan State. We believe that holding an international conference on this issue should be the next step in initiating the debate on the measures to follow.

The current situation demonstrates the international character of this problem, as well as the inefficiency of existing regional settlement mechanisms. That is why the Republic of Moldova, as other newly independent countries with similar problems, expects a more active involvement on behalf of the UN and European regional organizations, in particular the OSCE and the European Union.

We think that the time is ripe to give more consideration to the question on how root causes of these conflicts should be dealt with and how to use in a more efficient way the existing framework of cooperation between the UN and regional organizations. It is also necessary to firmly decide upon the actions that have to be undertaken in order to ensure the implementation of the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN, OSCE and other regional organizations on the conflicts I referred to. In particular, we believe that the General Assembly

should evaluate the efficiency of co-operation between the UN and OSCE from this perspective as well.

Mr. President,

Today, the main challenges for the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields stem from world trends, such as globalization and increasing ecological interdependence, and from persistent factors such as wide spread poverty and severe social inequalities between and within states. They should be addressed by a strengthened global partnership between industrial countries, developing countries, countries with economy in transition and intergovernmental institutions.

This global partnership for development must reaffirm, as called by the UN Millennium Summit, the United Nations Charter pledge to employ multilateral machinery for the economic and social advancement in the world.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remain the most outstanding targets agreed by the international community, as they cover the major areas of concern for the peoples of the world.

It is therefore of utmost importance to achieve the MDGs as well as other specific developmental targets set out, since 1992, by the various UN major conferences in the economic and social fields. In this context, we welcome the decision of the General Assembly, adopted at the last session, to hold, in September 2005, a *high level meeting* that will undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, including the development goals and in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits.

This undertaking is not only timely but also necessary given the overall slow pace of implementation. We share the concerns expressed in this respect by many states, in particular by the sponsoring countries of the *Final Declaration of the World Leaders Meeting for the Action Against Hunger and Poverty*, adopted on September 20th. Like them, we consider that if resolute and urgent actions are not taken, such goals will not be reached by 2015 in some regions of the world.

We should not forget, in this context, about the grave social and economic problems that affect crisis-stricken countries and countries with special needs, in particular landlocked countries. Creating an enabling environment for sustainable development is a challenge for them and they should be further assisted by the United Nations system and donor community.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate, in conclusion, my country's commitment to the Organization and its willingness to cooperate with other Member States in order to achieve the noble goals and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Thank you very much.