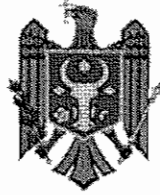


# REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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## STATEMENT

**BY H.E. MR. ALEXANDRU CUJBA  
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**New-York, 27 September 2011**

**Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great honour and privilege to take part in the general debate and to represent my country at this high rostrum at a significant juncture of Moldova's modern history - the recent celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence and 20 years of its membership in the United Nations, which we will mark in several months. These interrelated and equally complementary events constitute an excellent opportunity to once again express our genuine attachment to the founding principles of the World Organization and sincere appreciation for the support and assistance granted by the international community to my country during these years.

On behalf of our delegation I have a special pleasure to extend our congratulations to you, Mr. President, for assuming this high and responsible position and to join the previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to H.E. Mr. **Joseph Deiss** for the excellent management and the competence proven during his presidency.

As well, allow me to reiterate our sincere felicitations to H.E. Mr. **Ban Ki-moon** for his re-appointment for the second term as the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to convey our deepest appreciation for his utmost efforts and activity to the benefit of the international community and to wish him success in ensuring the continuity of his noble mission.

**Mr. President,**

The beginning of a new decade of the XXI-st century was marked with deep changes, sincere aspirations and high hopes in many parts of our planet. We wholeheartedly welcomed the declaration of the independence of the Republic of South Sudan and its accession as the 193<sup>rd</sup> member state of the United Nations. We witnessed the genuine desire of youth for democratic reforms and human rights, fundamental freedoms and social justice. Peoples in the Mediterranean Region, in Northern Africa and the Middle East have stepped firmly on the road of democracy, launching the Arab spring and we recall in this regard the events that changed Moldova and launched our country on a new, more democratic track in 2009.

In times of change and historical turnouts, we note the transition of Libya to a new phase in its political development, just as stated expressively in this Assembly last week by the Chairman of the National Transitional Council's Executive Office of Libya, whom, as many other delegations, the Republic of Moldova supported to seat as Libya's representative in the General Assembly. The UN's role in supporting the transition to democracy in the wake of the downfall of the former regime was incremental and we express our satisfaction with the approval by the Security Council of the creation of a mission to assist the transitional authorities and the Libyan people during this critical post-conflict phase.

We have also learned that natural calamities hit nations without discretion and in order to overcome the results of ecological disasters such as East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima

nuclear accident, great flooding in Pakistan or severe drought and hunger in the Horn of Africa - common efforts are required, of both developed and developing states, the international community having a high task to strengthen its humanitarian and disaster response capabilities.

Facing different challenges, it is commendable to have a joint platform of concerted actions, managed by the United Nations. Poverty, conflicts, climate change, economic and financial issues, migration, pandemics, terrorism, international crime and other crises affecting the humanity cannot be countered individually, but only by means of global strategies, the UN being a unique tool in addressing and overcoming them.

The UN should consolidate its central role in world affairs and consequently enhance its multilateral and universal potential, by making our Organization more strong, representative, efficient and able to promptly react to major challenges. A reformed Organization must pragmatically adapt to new realities and intensify its influence in strict accordance with the UN Charter. The most appropriate methods of communication, consultation and cooperation during the reform process should be developed in close interaction with other actors like the private sector, civil society, academics, that play a more visible role in shaping the modern world.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The greatest incentive for economic growth and security is a balanced and equitable global trade system for which the international community is struggling in complex negotiations since the Doha Round in 2001. While talks on this issue continue, discrepancies and breaches in our economies make it difficult to stand against the waves of economic and financial crises. It is hardly possible that countries, especially developing ones, remain immune the globalized economic downturns. While we are required to implement drastic austerity measures, access to markets is vital for our economies. This is one of my country's priorities and our Government is working hard towards the extension and diversification of market channels in cooperation with its partners, primarily in Europe. We rely on openness, a constructive approach, and fair-play in market relations as our best allies for win-win solutions in global trade.

**Mr. President,**

The Republic of Moldova stands committed to its human rights agenda. Last year, my country ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as a sustained effort to contribute to the development and implementation of the international standards in the field of human rights and of the rule of law.

As a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Moldova has taken an active part in the Council's deliberations and activities with the aim of building up a strong and legitimate human rights body. This year the member states underwent the complex process of the Council's review. Although not all the concerns of member states have been accommodated for a far-reaching and more ambitious outcome of the review, we should remain committed to fulfilling a balanced and objective agenda of the Council,

while its membership is expected to comply with General Assembly Resolution 60/251 to uphold the highest standards in the field of human rights and fully cooperate with the Council's mechanisms.

The Republic of Moldova remains committed to this principle. In about two weeks, my country will engage in intensive review in the UN Human Rights Council under the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, involving both the government but also civil society and other national stakeholders. We intend to proceed in this exercise with a genuine openness, objectiveness and constructive approach.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **terrorist attacks** in New York on September 11, 2001, reminded us once again of the great losses, vigilance and the imperative to multiply our efforts in combating this terrible plague.

As a State Party of the absolute majority of universal legal instruments to prevent terrorist acts, the Republic of Moldova condemns terrorism and extremism in all its aspects and welcomes the achievements of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We advocate for the earliest conclusion of the negotiations of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, the convening of the UN Conference and strengthening all efforts on combating terrorism at the national, regional and global level. Bringing its contribution to this end, the Republic of Moldova is hosting these days a Regional event on Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism in South-Eastern European States.

**Mr. President,**

Now let me refer to one of the most important security issues faced by the Republic of Moldova – the Transnistrian conflict. From the outset, I would like to reconfirm that the Government of the Republic of Moldova remains fully committed to the goal of achieving a political, comprehensive, viable solution to this issue that should lead to the reintegration of my country.

During the last 5 years, while referring to the Transnistrian issue, we were always making the same appeal - Moldova pleads for the unconditional resumption of the negotiations in the 5+2 format on the political settlement of this conflict. I am happy to announce that exactly five days ago, at a 5+2 consultations round in Moscow, this decision was finally taken. We express our gratitude to the Russian Federation, OSCE, Ukraine, European Union and the United States - members of the 5+2 negotiations format for their efforts in reaching this result. But resumption of the official negotiations was never seen as a goal in itself. We are fully aware that the most difficult part of the conflict resolution is still ahead.

On this occasion, I would like to reiterate some basic elements of the Moldovan approach towards this problem. A viable, comprehensive, political solution can only be based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders. The central question on the agenda of the 5+2 negotiations should be the special status of the Transnistrian region within Moldova. On

the one hand this special status should ensure full respect for the needs, rights and freedoms of the local population. On the other hand - it should provide for the functional integration of the region with the rest of the country.

Over the past year our efforts have been focused on mobilizing internal resources and international support to advance the conflict-resolution process. In this regard, we are continuing to promote confidence-building measures between both banks of the Nistru River. Our current list of priorities includes restoration of full-fledged railway communication throughout the Transnistrian region in accordance with international standards. Another important objective is the restoration of land-line phone connections to allow people from the Transnistrian region to communicate freely with their relatives and friends in the rest of Moldova. The main beneficiaries of these measures are, obviously, the population and business community. The solutions are on the table. Our message for the leadership from Tiraspol is clear – abandon the policy of self-isolation and let's think together about practical and transparent solutions that would make people's lives much easier.

Let me also refer to some unresolved issues that need further attention. We are concerned about the situation of Latin-script schools in the Transnistrian region that remain under constant pressure from the local authorities. Children should never become hostages of political disagreements. In the same context, we emphasize the need to improve the human rights situation in the region, in particular to find a solution to the case of Mr. Ilie Cazac, abusively imprisoned in Tiraspol, in order to secure his immediate and unconditional release.

We need also to reflect on the future of the existing peacekeeping arrangement in Moldova. I would like to underline that Moldova has been at peace for the past 19 years. Therefore, what we really need is a peace-consolidation, not peacekeeping exercise. This implies the need to transform the existing old-fashioned military mechanism into a multinational civilian mission under a relevant international mandate, focused on confidence-building activities.

We should also not avoid discussions about the presence of foreign military forces that are stationed on Moldovan soil without the consent of the host-country, in breach of the Moldovan Constitution and relevant international commitments. We are confident that an early completion of the withdrawal of foreign munitions and armed forces guarding them from the territory of the Republic of Moldova will positively influence the settlement process of the Transnistrian problem.

As in the case of other conflicts, the Transnistrian settlement process can not advance to its final goal without wide international support, particularly by the mediators and observers. It is our strong belief that genuine mediation based on shared objectives, joint efforts and good faith is an essential factor in this regard.

We fully concur, Mr. President, with your focus on the peaceful settlement of disputes, and your assessment that peaceful settlements, including those brokered through mediation efforts, provide the most cost-effective and long-lasting solutions. We will

actively engage in further debate on the topic of “The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes” with a view of developing and consolidating the role of the General Assembly as the world’s leading peacemaker.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Moldova’s advancement on the path to European integration with the view of overall modernization of the country remains the absolute priority of the domestic and external policy of the Republic of Moldova. The Government has initiated a set of deep reforms with the goal to ensure the rule of law, independence of justice, and a functional market economy where businesses and foreign investments can find a proper place for growth. These have proven to be complex, lengthy and sometimes painful processes, but absolutely indispensable for further development.

Moldova’s proactive attitude and determination in promoting and implementing reforms ensured a more intense and expanded EU-Moldova Political Dialogue. We have advanced significantly in negotiating the Association Agreement with the EU, opening the structured Human Rights dialogue and fully engaging in implementing the conditions of the visa liberalization dialogue. We are ready to launch negotiations on creating a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the European Union.

The European perspective continues to be the EU’s most effective lever in promoting dynamic and consistent reforms in neighboring countries and we are confident that promotion of democratic values, prosperity, stability and security in Europe shall form the foundation for the future EU agenda. And such “soft power” projection is solely possible along with the extension of the EU’s borders. In this context, we hope that the Warsaw Eastern Partnership Summit will make an important contribution to strengthening EU relations with partner countries, developing its messages and “leaving the EU’s door open” for those Eastern European neighbors who are able to meet the accession criteria, in a foreseeable future.

**Mr. President,**

During the last 20 years, my country has achieved significant positive developments in the field of internal affairs. Still, much remains to be done in the process of carrying out the democratic and socio-economic reforms, with the main objective to consolidate the Republic of Moldova as a sovereign, independent, reintegrated and European state.

In this perspective, we further count on the support of the UN and its member states in advancing political and economic development of my country, solving the Transnistrian conflict, speeding the withdrawal of foreign military forces and implementing our development priorities.

In conclusion, I would like to reconfirm the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to the ideals and goals of the United Nations and its readiness to further cooperate broadly through concrete actions to bring these ideas and aspirations to life.

I thank you, Mr. President.