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REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



STATEMENT

BY

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**PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE SIXTY SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 26 September 2012

Mr. President

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies,

At the outset I would like to congratulate Mr. Vuk Jeremić with his election as President of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly and wish him every success in this highly honorable and responsible post. I am convinced that your rich experience, Mr. President, will contribute to the achievement of significant results in our joint work.

My appreciation goes as well to your predecessor, Mr. Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, for the exemplary manner in which he led the 66th session.

I also wish to pay tribute to the Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon for his continuous efforts to revitalize the global role of the United Nations as well as to bring reforms to this organization.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honor for me to come for the first time to this podium to speak on behalf of the people of the Republic of Moldova.

Twenty one years ago my country split from the Soviet empire and today it is undergoing the process of democratic transformation, joining the European Union being its ultimate goal.

After a period of several years marked by political turmoil my country is currently enjoying political stability that allows it to develop and modernize. We have firmly defined the objective of European integration and revived the economic and social reforms. And our priorities are the establishment of rule of law, the comprehensive judicial reform (with emphasis on fighting corruption), modernization of the economy and reintegration of the country.

The support and assistance provided by our European partners from Brussels and member states is extremely important for us and assure us that we are on the right way.

Two decades ago, in the very day the Republic of Moldova joined the United Nations, the peace in my country was shaken. The armed conflict in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova lasted for 5 months and caused loss of many lives. It is a tragic period of our past, but also a serious challenge of the present. Since the end of the hostilities, Moldova has firmly embarked on the road of the peaceful settlement of this conflict, while twenty years of negotiations strengthened our belief that this is the only viable path to follow towards reaching a political settlement.

It is obvious that the perpetuation of the conflict does not offer any real benefit to the majority of people on the both banks of Nistru River. It undermines our national security and territorial integrity, hampers economic development and divides the society. Moreover, the conflict keeps the population of the Transnistrian region in isolation, incites human rights violations and generates economic stagnation on the left bank of Nistru. The current political and economic trends show that preserving the status-quo is not a viable scenario anymore. All our international partners share the view that there is no alternative to a reunified Moldova. Our message in this regard is firm – twenty years are enough to overcome the mistrust of the past and it is the time to start building a shared future.

The key elements of the approach of the Moldovan authorities towards the resolution of the conflict are also clear. Our ultimate goal is to reintegrate the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders as a functional state with a clear European perspective. The Transnistrian region should be granted a special status within Moldova, which will provide the region with a comfortable level of self-governance. Defining the special status is the core task of the political negotiations in the 5+2 format. This negotiation process should lead to a reasonable compromise based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

In parallel, we will continue to implement confidence-building measures aimed at bringing communities from both banks of Nistru closer to each other. By promoting business links, ensuring freedom of movement, protecting human rights, improving security and combating criminality we will prepare a better ground for political solution. Transformation of the existing military peacekeeping mechanism into an international civilian mission aimed at building the confidence rather than separating the sides becomes also an imperative.

Our international partners provide an essential contribution in bringing this conflict to an end. Growing assistance from the European Union is an encouraging example in this regard. Now the negotiation process needs a strong impulse and we believe that our international partners can demonstrate the necessary political will to this end. We call on the OSCE, Russian Federation, Ukraine, European Union and the United States to unite their efforts and work together towards the final resolution of the Transnistrian conflict and reintegration of the Republic of Moldova.

It is also important to reiterate that the Russian forces, that are still present on the territory of the Republic of Moldova without host-nation consent and in contradiction with constitutional framework and international commitments, should be finally withdrawn.

Mr. President,

The universal character of the UN and its unique role in managing international relations is widely recognized and there is no alternative to this organization.

Yet, the globalization and global financial crisis suggest us the need to reform the organization in order to ensure progressive and sustainable strengthening of the UN.

I am particularly referring to the *Security Council reform* to which a compromise solution should be found. We believe that any proposal of its reform should take into account the legitimate aspirations of all regional groups, including granting an additional non-permanent seat to the Eastern-European Group.

In its capacity as a member of Human Rights Council, committees on Conferences, on Programme and Coordination, on Information, Commission for Population and Development and other UN elective bodies the Republic of Moldova will continue to support efforts towards the comprehensive reform of the United Nations system and of its main bodies and organs, including the revitalization of the General Assembly and the reform of the Security Council, with the aim to enhance the efficiency, transparency, accountability and representativeness of the system.

Mr. President,

The relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations is of paramount importance for the maintenance of international peace and security. In many instances, all these organizations have unique and complementary capacities that, when properly coordinated, can contribute decisively to the prevention and management of conflicts, including the protracted ones.

From this point of view, during this session we will strongly support the consideration by the General Assembly of the issue of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CE), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) and other organizations.

In the same context, considering the distinct identity devoted to democracy and economic development, the increased potential and role in economic development and regional integration, as well as the strong determination of the countries of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM) to actively contribute to the international security, stability and peace the delegations of its member states - Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and of my own country, Republic of Moldova have decided to advance for the consideration by the General Assembly during its current session the draft resolution on the *Cooperation between the United Nations and GUAM*.

At this stage, the process of development and integration of our States is still burdened by some outstanding problems, including the unresolved conflicts in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Republic of Moldova. We reaffirm our unswerving commitment to finding peaceful solutions to these conflicts on the basis of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of our countries.

Mr. President,

Promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels is at the heart of the United Nations' mission and is fundamental to achieving a durable peace, to supporting openness in government, to the effective protection of human rights and to sustained economic growth and development.

We emphasize the importance of the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on *The rule of law at the national and international level* held two days ago and will continue to support efforts in this direction during the 67th session. In our view, strengthening of the rule of law will help to maintain peace, promote development and enhance cooperation, and is therefore conducive to the achievement of the goal of building a harmonious world.

Mr. President,

Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, disarmament and efficient control of armaments remain a vital topic on the international cooperation agenda that need common understanding, political will and engaged efforts from all states and international organizations. Republic of Moldova fully supports the international community in exerting constant control and applying necessary preventive measures on the unlawful attempts to develop weapons of mass destruction, and their means of delivery that pose a real threat to the international security and that are often used to challenge the existing world order.

The Republic of Moldova assumed significant objectives and is undertaking tangible steps in accomplishing its priorities in the field of arms control. In cooperation with our partners, the Government of the Republic of Moldova is in the process of adjusting to the best international standards the dual use goods export control legislation, improving SALW management for both civilians and military, ensuring proper border management and actively cooperating on the regional and international level.

Mr. President,

Military conflicts in different regions of the planet and global economic crisis brought once again to our attention the human rights issue.

Principles of international law and human rights standards can be promoted only by joint efforts and decisions. Acts of aggression, including attacks against the personnel and the integrity of diplomatic facilities, represent a violation of international norms and deserve our firm condemnation.

And the UN relevant bodies, including Human Rights Council have sufficient instruments to prompt actions on behalf of States aimed at prevention of human rights violations, conducting country evaluations and providing tailored solutions.

As a member of the Human Rights Council for the term of 2010-2013 and as vice-chair of the Third Committee, during the last session the Republic of Moldova continuously pledges to open-mindedly further the cause of promoting and protecting human rights worldwide.

Mr. President,

The world economic crisis is an incentive for putting into practice the sustainable development idea, which could provide solutions for maintaining a rhythm of economic growth and prevent climate change issue simultaneously.

We support the renewal of the global commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio and the agreement on establishing the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe that promoting a “green economy” model will help enterprises to reconfigure in order to streamline natural, human and economical investments.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

Finally, I would like to reiterate that the Republic of Moldova is a strong supporter of the UN’s role in global governance and the management of international crisis. We believe in potential and capacities of the United Nations to find adequate responses and take concrete actions aimed at resolving ever increasing global challenges. The Republic of Moldova is definitely contributing to this activity.

Thank you