



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE OSCE

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ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

**by the Republic of Moldova in response to the report
of the High Commissioner for National Minorities Ms. Astrid Thors
(1007 Permanent Council, July 10, 2014)**

Mr Chairperson,

Allow me from the outset to join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Ms Astrid Thors at the Permanent Council and thank her for the comprehensive and detailed Report. While aligning to the EU Statement, we would like to make some brief remarks in our national capacity.

The Republic of Moldova enjoys a positive track record of fruitful cooperation with the High Commissioner Office in many areas - including education and language training, as well as in developing the national strategy on social integration of national minorities. This has been reconfirmed during the visit High Commissioner Astrid Thors just made to my country.

Let me point out that preserving the identity and cultural values of the national minorities, on the one hand, and creating conditions for their deeper integration into the society on the other hand - are essential in building the entire human rights protection system and, ultimately, ensuring long-term social cohesion and political stability in the Republic of Moldova. Therefore, we appreciate the provided assistance and welcome the HCNM's engagement to further support the national authorities in developing a comprehensive strategy aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of national minorities.

Mr Chairperson,

We share the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner on the difficult situation of the Moldova-administered Latin Script Schools in the Transnistrian region. As we stated on previous occasions these schools are facing multiple challenges, such as Tiraspol's unreasonable demands to significantly increase the rent and tariffs for utilities or attempts to impose double taxation on teachers. These worrying trends are alarming in particular before the preparations for the new school year.

The Republic of Moldova is committed to reach a sustainable solution for the normal functioning of the schools through constructive dialogue. The issue of schools is constantly on the agenda of negotiations process and is addressed in the Working

Group on education. Following the meeting held last month in Freising, Germany, it was agreed to launch discussions on the framework document that would provide a long-term solution for schools without any substantial interference into the educational process. In this regard, Chisinau is constantly appealing to Tiraspol to refrain from unilateral actions that could lead to the deterioration of conditions in which the educational institutions are operating. We share the assessment on the need to fully respect the right of children to receive education in their mother tongue. There should be no excuse for attempts to deprive children from this fundamental right.

In conclusion, let me express our full support to the High Commissioner activity and wish her and her able team every success in future endeavors.

Thank you.