

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Andrei STRATAN,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
(OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism, Berlin, 28-29 April 2004)**

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first of all to express the most sincere words of appreciation to the Bulgarian Chairmanship for its consequence and perseverance in advancing the OSCE's actions towards countering the dangerous phenomenon of anti-Semitism. I would also like to thank our hosts for the excellent conditions created for this important conference.

May I point out that since gaining its independence the Republic of Moldova has been undertaking steady efforts aimed at establishing an efficient internal legal framework in the area of combating reprehensible phenomena that still persist in modern societies, such as racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. My country has adhered to the major international instruments existing in this field, particularly in the framework of the UN, OSCE and the Council of Europe. The Government of the Republic of Moldova promotes through all means the basic human values, the principles of racial, ethnic and linguistic tolerance. Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate that the fight against the shameful phenomena of racial intolerance and anti-Semitism will further constitute a priority in the process of building up a democratic society in my country.

Regretfully, for more than a decade, the authorities of the Republic of Moldova could not exercise the constitutional control and ensure the rule of law in the eastern regions of the country, which are controlled by the secessionist Transnistrian regime. Due to this fact, the Moldovan Government cannot ensure on the entire territory of the country the full observance of the international treaties and conventions in the field of human rights, including the UN Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

It is not a novelty for the international community that the fundamental human rights are brutally violated in the separatist Transnistrian region. One of the most recent examples in this respect is the profanation of some 70 graves at the Jewish cemetery in Tiraspol. This criminal incident, totally overlooked by the Transnistrian administration, once again demonstrates the importance of a more active involvement of the international community in the solution of this conflict. Thus, ensuring functioning on the entire territory of the Republic of Moldova of the constitutional and international mechanisms, inclusively those regarding the fundamental human rights and countering all forms of xenophobia, must become a priority for the OSCE and a subject of high concern for other relevant international organisations.