



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
10 June 2019

Original: English

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## Seventy-fourth session

Item 116 (c) of the preliminary list\*

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

### **Note verbale dated 5 June 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Republic of Moldova to the Human Rights Council for the term 2020–2022, at the elections to be held in New York in 2019.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations has the honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments for its candidature to the Council (see annex).

As a State Member of the United Nations and a responsible partner in international cooperation, the Republic of Moldova pledges to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova would be grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

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\* [A/74/50](#).



**Annex to the note verbale dated 5 June 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

**Candidature of the Republic of Moldova to the Human Rights Council, 2020–2022**

**Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)**

1. As a State Member of the United Nations and a responsible partner in international cooperation, the Republic of Moldova is strongly committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and fully shares the core universal values enshrined therein.
2. The Republic of Moldova attaches great importance to the Human Rights Council as the main United Nations body mandated with the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and has the honour to present its candidature for election to the Council for the term 2020–2022, at the elections to be held during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.
3. As a staunch supporter of the multilateral system, the Republic of Moldova actively engages with the United Nations and its agencies at all levels, as well as with regional organizations to which it belongs, in particular the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and others.
4. During its first membership in the Human Rights Council, for the term 2011–2013, and as an observer to the Council, the Republic of Moldova has been a firm advocate of the Council and the tools at its disposal for strengthening human rights protection regionally and globally and has actively promoted the full cooperation of Member States with the Council and its mechanisms.
5. In 2010, the Republic of Moldova issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and has since received country visits from six mandate holders, the latest being the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in June 2018.
6. The Republic of Moldova has twice undergone the universal periodic review, in 2011 and 2016, and has presented periodic national reports on all core international human rights treaties to which it is a party.
7. In 2014, the Republic of Moldova signed an association agreement with the European Union and declared European integration as its national long-term strategic objective, based on the principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights.
8. The Moldovan authorities are committed to ensuring effective follow-up to international human rights-related recommendations, including from special procedures mandate holders. Based upon the recommendations submitted by the special rapporteurs over the past years, a range of policy documents have been developed and revised, such as the guardianship reform prompted by the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities or the amendment to the Law on Freedom of Religion adopted as a result of the visit of the respective mandate holder.
9. At the national level, driven by the priorities of the European integration agenda and on the basis of the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, the Government of the Republic of Moldova

has been actively taking measures to improve the human rights situation in the country, in line with the obligations deriving from the international treaties to which it is a party, in particular:

(a) The adoption of the Law on Ensuring Equality in 2012 and the creation of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality as a quasi-judicial body that has established itself as a strong pillar of the human rights protection system in the country, focused on ensuring equality and the fight against discrimination;

(b) The reform conducted in 2016 of the unconstitutionality exception as an indirect instrument of access to the Constitutional Court, thus strengthening the national mechanism for the protection of fundamental rights;

(c) The recognition, in 2013, of the competences of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals claiming to be victims of a violation by the State party of any of the rights set forth in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the signature of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on a communications procedure, thus strengthening the human rights protection system in the country;

(d) The adoption of the strategy on the consolidation of inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Moldova for 2017–2027, with a specific action plan for 2017–2020 aimed at ensuring the further protection of persons belonging to national minorities;

(e) The implementation of the national action plan for the support of Roma people for 2011–2015 introduced the innovation of the Roma community mediator;

(f) The reaccreditation, in 2018, of the People's Advocate as a national human rights institution with A status according to the Paris Principles, as a result of a series of measures taken to strengthen its mandate and ensure its independence and autonomy;

(g) The adoption of legislative, institutional and operational measures on combating torture and ill-treatment in line with international standards, and the reform of the national preventive mechanism;

(h) The adoption of a comprehensive framework on gender equality and on combating domestic and gender-based violence, the introduction of a 40 per cent quota system as affirmative action for the promotion of women's participation in politics, and the introduction of emergency restraining orders for the protection of victims;

(i) The adoption of legislative and institutional measures in order to combat trafficking in human beings, including the creation of the national referral mechanism and the implementation of proactive actions in identifying, protecting and rehabilitating victims of trafficking in human beings;

(j) The adoption of the third national human rights action plan for 2018–2022 and the establishment of the National Human Rights Council, serviced by the permanent Human Rights Secretariat. The new structures are aimed at strengthening the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up and at accelerating the implementation of human rights policies, including recommendations emanating from international human rights mechanisms;

(k) The adoption in 2018 of the national development strategy "Moldova 2030", which brings a people-centred and human rights-based approach to the long-term development of the country, anchored in the principles of equality and non-discrimination, interdependence, participation, empowerment and ownership.

10. The European integration agenda, the national human rights action plan and the national development strategy “Moldova 2030” reflect the vision of how we want to see the Republic of Moldova develop in the years to come, that is, as a country where human rights are at the very core of our system of values, the bedrock of our public policies at all levels, based on universal principles, and where every person, without exception, can fully enjoy his or her human rights and fundamental freedoms.

11. On the basis of this vision and these principles, as a future member of the Human Rights Council, the Republic of Moldova pledges to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and to be an active and reliable partner for dialogue and cooperation in international forums, and makes the following voluntary pledges and commitments:

#### **Voluntary pledges and commitments at the international level**

(a) To continue advocating for a Human Rights Council that acts as the main global forum for the protection and promotion of human rights, including by promoting the Council’s effective, objective and prompt response to situations in which gross and systematic violations of human rights are observed;

(b) To support the prevention mandate of the Council by working towards building trust, dialogue and cooperation, and to allow the Council’s early intervention, including by addressing early warning signs when systematic and widespread attacks against human rights defenders and civil society are observed;

(c) To continue supporting the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner;

(d) To continue its active cooperation with international human rights bodies, including with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(e) To support the reinforcement of a strong and independent United Nations human rights system, promote the vital role of the independent United Nations human rights treaty bodies, advocate the independence of the special procedures mandate holders and granting them unimpeded access during their visits, continue engaging constructively with the universal periodic review mechanism and ensure follow-up on the implementation of all recommendations;

(f) To continue defending the space for civil society and to speak up against individual acts of reprisal or harassment;

(g) To promote a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to support initiatives regarding the identification of synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the recommendations of the universal periodic review, special procedures and treaty bodies;

(h) To actively promote the implementation of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up;

(i) To support efforts, at the regional and global levels, directed at safeguarding the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of new and emerging challenges, such as the use of new information and communications technologies, climate change and rising inequalities;

(j) To pursue an active role in the Human Rights Council by supporting and promoting initiatives on the abolition of the death penalty, the prohibition of torture, the elimination of domestic and gender-based violence, and combating human trafficking, as well as on promoting gender equality, children’s rights, the human

rights of youth, human rights defenders, non-discrimination, the rights to freedom of expression online and offline and of association, and the right to health and well-being, among other economic, social and cultural rights;

(k) To promote the protection of human rights in unresolved conflicts in so-called “grey zones” by putting the needs of the people affected at the centre of considerations and above political divergences. By no means shall this prejudice the existing formats for the political settlement of those conflicts;

(l) To continue cooperating with international and regional organizations such as the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the International Organization of la Francophonie in promoting and effectively protecting human rights;

### **Voluntary pledges and commitments at the national level**

(m) To uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights;

(n) To maintain its standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders and engage in a constructive dialogue in order to continuously improve the human rights protection system in the country;

(o) To consolidate the functional capacities of the national human rights institutions and to ensure that they can effectively and independently discharge their mandates, by allocating sufficient financial and human resources and creating adequate working conditions for their staff, in compliance with the Paris Principles;

(p) To continue strengthening the space for civil society and working in partnership with civil society organizations, both in the formulation and implementation of domestic human rights policies and in the preparation of national reports to human rights treaty bodies and for the universal periodic review;

(q) To ensure the effective functioning of the newly created National Human Rights Council and the permanent Human Rights Secretariat, including by fully engaging civil society organizations in the work of those mechanisms;

(r) To ensure the effective implementation of the third national human rights action plan and of the national development strategy “Moldova 2030” by allocating the necessary resources to that end;

(s) To continue taking active measures for the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people living in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova;

(t) To provide human rights training for law enforcement and other professionals working with vulnerable groups, including children and women victims of domestic violence or human trafficking, in cooperation with international mechanisms and civil society organizations, including by requesting technical assistance;

(u) To continue implementing policies directed at combating and eliminating all forms of discrimination, through education, awareness-raising programmes and the empowerment of rights holders, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups;

(v) To develop a set of national human rights indicators for monitoring civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, thus contributing to the continuous improvement of national policies in the field of human rights, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to leaving no one behind.