



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Committee against Torture

62th Session

Examination of the Third Periodic Report of the Republic of Moldova on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

S T A T E M E N T

OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Delivered by Mr. Dorin PURICE,

Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Head of the Delegation

(Geneva, 7-8 November 2017)

HONOURABLE CHAIR,

ESTEEMED COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

The Republic of Moldova is committed to the complex process of strengthening the rule of law. Past issues and outdated practices from the soviet regime are not entirely overcome. Unfortunately, they are manifested from time to time through serious visible events confirming the weaknesses of the system and the urge for modernization and change.

To this end, I would like to start by mentioning the recently dramatic case of Andrei Brăguță. Mr. Brăguță was detained for exceeding the legal speed limit and, due to existing systemic deficiencies, the situation escalated and resulted in the death of the person in the penitentiary.

This particularly serious case, involving 7 persons of which 3 police officers sent to court, possess fundamental questions as to the effectiveness of Moldovan institutions responsible for combatting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Nevertheless, I would like to assure you that these unfortunate events serve as painful lessons and call for improving capacities to ensure respect for human rights fully and effectively. We believe that the key solution is to approach the issues proactively rather than reactively, which was not sufficiently achieved yet.

Despite the existing problems, the reform that we are currently undergoing with the consistent support of the European Union has already produced positive results. To this end, the recent opinion polls show that citizens' trust in Police has doubled (**46% compared to 25,3% in October 2016**). Moreover, statistics show a decrease in the number of complaints on torture from 920 in 2012 to 622 in 2016.

Therefore, we are firmly committed to the international human rights principles and values. Human right protection represents an issue of both national and international concern. Moreover, the respect for human rights and freedoms is of the main priorities of the Activity Program of the

Government of Moldova. Significant effort was devoted to the issue, complemented by international measures.

Taking this opportunity, we reaffirm the need for total prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. This approach represents a basic principle of the Moldovan system for human rights.

On behalf of the Government of Moldova, I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to present the progress on implementation of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Moldova.

We hope that the information we will provide during this session will be fully comprehensive, offering precise and credible answers to the questions that may arise. We also assure you of our openness and the eagerness to acquire best international practices against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

We acknowledge the need for firm steps forward which is why we kindly request the valuable support of the Committee and other relevant actors in the field.

In the event of the impossibility to tackle all the relevant issues during this meeting, we commit to dully provide the additional information.

It is also to be mentioned that in 2013, the Republic of Moldova did not present the regular report to CAT (Committee Against Torture) due to the fact that the events on 7th April 2009 required further investigation, as well as establishment of specialized commissions at Government and Parliament level. The recommendations provided during CAT visit in 2013 required complex implementation measures. Moreover, there were certain internal mismatches due to frequent changes of government. Nevertheless, important progress has been made and we will touch upon it further.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Third Regular Report of the Republic of Moldova on implementation of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was drafted under the provision of art. 19 paragraph (1) of the above-mentioned document. The Report was drafted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in cooperation with relevant authorities.

The Draft Report was published on the official website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for public consultation with civil society.

The Report of the Government of Moldova contains data on actions carried out by national authorities during 2009-2017 to implement the commitments undertaken under the provisions of the Convention, as well as on the progress registered. Additionally, we will present the updated information from 2013.

In order to provide a better understanding of the state of play, we will briefly tackle the main actions conducted by the Republic of Moldova on internal and international level during 2009-2017. The technical aspects are thoroughly described in the Report.

1. INTERNAL ACTIONS

➤ The Republic of Moldova implements the Recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), resulted from the visit in Chisinau in 2013. These recommendations served as basis for the Action Plan, the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture and the recommendations of the relevant NGO's.

➤ In October 2016, the Council on Prevention of Torture was established and operationalized under the Law on Ombudsman adopted in 2014 (*Law No. 52/2014*). The Reports are published and can be viewed on the official page of Ombudsman.

➤ In September 2017, the **Action Plan on reducing ill-treatment, abuse and discrimination against persons held in Police custody for 2017 – 2020** (*GD No. 748/20.09.2017*). The Action Plan was designed to implement the specific provisions from the **Police Development Strategy for 2016 – 2020** (*GD No. 587/12.05.2016*) and the provisions of the EU Budget Support for Police Reform.

The Action Plan foresees improving detention and transportation facilities and increasing safety of persons held in Police custody (**15** temporary detention facilities refurbished; minimum **25** specialized transportation vehicles purchased; over **100** police cells renovated and **200** police officers trained).

Moreover, the police officers conducting escort guard will benefit of improved working conditions and increased safety.

2. ACQUIRING OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND BEST PRACTICES

The Republic of Moldova ratified and acquired the international framework on protection of human rights. In this regard, we confirm that the Republic of Moldova is committed to become a credible and predictable actor in the area and to actively legislate in the benefit of the society.

➤ The Draft Law on ratification of the **Additional Protocol to the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities** was submitted. In December 2012, the Council Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (*Law No. 298/21.12.2012*).

➤ In 2013, the Republic of Moldova ratified the following international treaties: **Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters** (*Law No. 312/26.12.2012*), **European Convention on the Supervision of Conditionally Sentenced or Conditionally Released Offenders** (*Law No. 131/11.07.2014*) and **Agreement between the Government of Moldova and ICMPD** (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) on cooperation in the field of migration.

➤ Starting with 2013, the Republic of Moldova recognized the competence of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Interethnic Relations Bureau in Moldova has been appointed as national agency responsible for implementation of art. 14 of the Convention from 1965 (*Law No. 311/26.12.2012*).

➤ In December 2016, the Republic of Moldova ratified the **Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer system** (*Law No. 302/22.12.2016*). Amendments to the Criminal Code and Contravention Code were correspondingly operated.

➤ In 2016, RM the Republic of Moldova presented the second **Report on implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**, ratified by *Law No. 29-XVI/22.02.2007* (first report was presented in November 2013 in Geneva).

➤ In December 2016, the Republic of Moldova ratified the **Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism**, signed by the Republic of Moldova on 21.03.2016 (*Law No. 274/16.12.2016*).

➤ In February 2017, the Republic of Moldova ratified the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, signed by the Republic of Moldova on 25.03.2015 at

Santiago de Compostella, Spain, and adopted at the Committee of Ministers of the Council of on 09.07.2014 (*Law No. 5/24.02.2017*).

➤ In February 2017, the Republic of Moldova signed the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**, which is in the process of internal ratification.

3. UPDATE OF THE NATIONAL LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

➤ In November 2011 the Law on approval of the **Justice Sector Reform Strategy for 2011-2016 and the subsequent Action Plan** were adopted (*Law No. 231/25.11.2011*). By Parliament Decision of 2016, the deadline for implementation of Strategy provisions was extended to the end of 2017 (*GD No. 259/08.12.2016*).

➤ In Moldova (like in other ex-soviet countries), torture and inhuman or degrading treatment were qualified from the legal and criminal point of view as misuse of power accompanied by use of force or torture, or actions degrading the dignity of the injured party. As a result, during 2005-2012, legal provisions regarding abuse of office accompanied by violence or torture had been concomitantly enforced due to conflicting criminal norms.

The issue was addressed by complementing the Criminal Code with provisions on torture, and inhuman or degrading treatment (*Law No. 252/08.11.2012*) while eliminating the provisions on misuse of power accompanied by use of force (the annex portfolio contains the mentioned law).

The amended norms were drafted by the joint working group composed of prosecutors, judges, lawyers, academia and civil society. The norms were adjusted to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

Moreover, the notion on torture offence was taken from the Article 1 of the UN Convention Against Torture.

The possibility of amnesty, criminal liability limitation or application of a lower penalty than provided by the law were excluded. At the same time, criminal sanctions were aggravated. The prosecutor was assigned with the exclusive competence to investigate cases of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment.

➤ In 2013, the **Interagency Regulation** (Ministry of Justice, General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Customs Service, National Anti-corruption Centre and Ministry of Health) **on the identification, record and reporting of cases of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment** was approved. The Regulation establishes specific mechanisms and provides the prosecutor with the possibility to promptly react in these cases.

➤ In 2013, the **Methodological Recommendations for prosecutors to investigate cases of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment** were drafted. The Recommendations comprise norms for both criminal investigation and court inquiry.

➤ By **Law on Ombudsman** the capacity of the former Centre for Human Rights was strengthened. Moreover, in July 2015 the **Regulation on organization and functioning of the Ombudsman Office** was approved. The new law decreases the number of Ombudsmen, ensures the transparency and engagement of civil society and establishes the conformity criteria to be met (*Law No. 164/31.07.2015*).

➤ **The Law on the Government Agent** was approved in 2015 (*Law No. 151/30.07.2015*). It provides the revised mechanism for enforcement the European Convention for Human Rights in Moldova, representation at the European Court for Human Rights and enforcement of European Court decisions and judgements. Government monitoring over national agencies responsible for

enforcement of European Court decisions and judgments was set up. To ensure execution of the Law, the Regulation on the procedure of enforcement of European Court judgements was drafted.

- On 01.08.2016 the **Law No. 3/25.02.2016 on the Prosecutors' Office** was enacted. This was a milestone in the justice sector reformation launching new mechanisms in prosecutors' activity.
- Adoption in 2016 of the **Law on supplementing the Criminal Procedure Code** in order to set the evidence base on informatics systems represents an important step towards improving the activity of the criminal investigation body (*Law No. 294/22.12.2016*).
- Currently, a new draft law to ensure the legal framework on combating hate crimes is being submitted. Adoption of the law is expected by the end of the current parliament session.
- The Criminal Procedure Code was also amended on the investigation of torture cases. The Prosecutors' Office on Combating Organized Crime and Special Causes was established. It is specialized in combating organized crime, terrorism and torture. Consequently, the specialized Prosecutors' Office holds the competence to conduct criminal investigation on torture offences. The specialized body has an Anti-torture Bureau.
- In June 2017, the **Law on preventing and combating terrorism** was adopted. It provides a considerably revised mechanism of activity on preventing and combating terrorism with a focus on prevention activities (*Law No. 120/23.06.2017*).
- Furthermore, certain legal acts were amended and supplemented and the Criminal Code was amended to implemented and incriminate acts under the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing terrorism (*Law No. 119/23.06.2017*).
- Aiming at complying with the commitments undertaken by Moldova regarding international mechanisms on human rights, measures were undertaken to prohibit any forms of violence against children in the juvenile court system, including torture or inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment.
- The **National Plan on Human Rights** for 2017-2021 was drafted. This is the third policy document in the field (there were other two documents in 2004-2008 and 2011-2014). The draft Plan was developed based on UN Council on Human Rights recommendations. The recommendations were accepted by Moldova following the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review of October 2016, as well as the observations of UN Council on Human Rights drafted after the Report of Moldova in October 2016.

The draft was submitted to the Council of Europe for expert evaluation and will be submitted to the Government by the end of November 2017.

- According to the Decision of the Supreme Security Council of Moldova No. 01/1-02-03/21.06.2016, the draft National Security Strategy and its Action Plan were submitted to the Government.

4. Detention Conditions

- The **Government activity** to improve detention conditions is a continuous activity and the allocations of financial resources for this purpose have increased. They are used for renovations, health care services, meals for detainees and provision of household products. However, the financial resources are still insufficient which is one of the reasons of the existing issues in the detention system.

Currently, with the financial support of the Council of Europe Development Bank, the Project on construction of a new penitentiary for 1600 persons is being implemented. This will contribute to diminishing the overcrowding in penitentiaries.

➤ Starting with 2015, the persons that are no longer subject to criminal liability are monitored using IT systems (*Law No. 138/31.12.2015*). Moreover, we aim at implementing the IT Module “E-Detention” within the Police in order to monitor persons held in Police custody.

➤ In December 2016, the **Strategy on developing the penitentiary system for 2016-2020** and the subsequent Action Plan were approved. The aim is to improve detention conditions, eliminate overcrowding, address violence issues and ensure health care (*GD No. 1462/30.12.2016*).

5. ASSAULT ON POLICE OFFICERS

➤ Police officers’ protection and discouragement of their disrespect is a concept being promoted at national level. To this end, in May 2016 the legal framework on assault, resistance or violence on police was amended.

➤ Amendment of the legal framework was carried out with the expert advice of the Council of Europe and the advice of the Directorate General for Human Rights. The Criminal Code and Contravention Code were amended by adjustment of specific sanctions (**legile au fost modificate prin HG nr. 645/25.05.2016 ???**).

➤ Ensuring detainee’s right to be given prompt access to consult a chosen or a duty lawyer, and notification of a relative on the situation has been regulated. When providing statements, detained minors are accompanied by a parent, lawyer, educators, and the Police psychologist upon request.

6. POLICY DOCUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

It is worth mentioning that strategic policy documents related to human rights matters were adopted:

➤ **Police Development Strategy for 2016-2020 and its Action Plan** (*GD No. 587/12.05/2016*) covering the development and transformation of Police into a public service oriented towards the society.

➤ **National Strategy of Public Order and Security and its Action Plan** (*GD No. 354/31.05.2017*) fulfilling the processes related to development and modernization of persons’ protection, as well as society and state security.

➤ **Carabineer Troops Reform Strategy for 2017-2020 and its Action Plan** (*GD No. 357/31.05.2017*) ensuring development of a dual police system, transformation of Carabineers into a police body with military status, clear delimitation of competences regarding public order and security between the Police and Carabineers.

➤ **The Financing Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the European Union on the Budget Support for Police Reform Program 2017-2020** was signed.

➤ Following the launching of the Public Administration Reform, the **Government Decision on organization and functioning of the Ministry of Internal Affairs** was approved in August 2017 (*GD No. 693/30.08.2017*).

➤ Law No. 288 as of 16.12.2016 on the public servant with special status within MIA was approved. The Law ensures a unitary and coherent framework for human resources management.

- In May 2017, the **Government Decision on establishment of the Operational-Executive Council on preventing and combating organized crime** was approved (*GD No. 298/11.05.2017*).
- The **National Strategy for preventing and combating organized crime for 2011-2016** was amended (*GD No. 298/11.05.2017*).

7. REGARDING THE EVENTS OF 7 APRIL 2009

It is known that the events on 07.04.2009 resulted in major infringements of human rights. As a result, the competent authorities adopted the following measures:

- **108** complaints on alleged Police torture, or inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment were recorded and examined resulting in **71** criminal cases initiated.

According to data from 01.10.2017, of the total number of criminal files sent to court, **22** decisions on **34** persons are irrevocable, while **6** criminal cases on **13** persons are under litigation before judicial courts.

- In order to identify civil persons and law enforcement officers who were victims during the events and to recover the injuries caused, a special Government Commission was established. As a result, **273** persons have been compensated up to the moment.
- Based on the conclusions from the review of events on 07.04.2009, the internal structure of the **General Prosecutor's Office** was developed by establishing the **Unit on Combating Torture**. Moreover, by General Prosecutor's decision, prosecutors responsible for investigation of torture cases were appointed in local and specialized prosecutor's offices.

8. RELATED MEASURES

Apart from the above-mentioned aspects, there are additional worth mentioning measures, such as: promotion of the principle "zero-tolerance to torture"; institutional capacity building; interethnic relations and protection of minorities' rights; prevention and combating of domestic violence; child rights' protection; preventing and combating of terrorism; gender equality; transfer of temporary detention facilities under the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the Ministry of Justice.

8.1. PROMOTION OF THE PRINCIPLE "ZERO-TOLERANCE TO TORTURE"

- Complementary to development of the policy framework, specific actions to promote the principle "**zero-tolerance to torture**" have been undertaken. Training programs for penitentiary system' staff were conducted on topics related to **human rights**, prevention of torture and ill treatment. Last but not least, activities designed to increase accountability and behavioral development of penitentiary staff were carried out.
- In September 2012, the Penitentiary Institutions Department jointly with the Ombudsman Office drafted the Action Plan on combating torture and ill treatment in the penitentiary system.
- Based on recommendations of the European Committee for Preventing Torture (CPT) measures to improve the nutrition, health care and qualified treatment, reintegration, respect for detainees' rights and guarantees were undertaken. Following a financial needs assessment, budget allocations were significantly increased.

8.2. Institutional Capacity Building

- In July and October 2016, and respectively October 2017, in the framework of the Council of Europe Project "Support to Criminal Justice Reform in Moldova", financed by the Government of Denmark, workshops on "Preventing and combating torture and ill-treatment: National and International legal practices" were conducted.

- **125** employees of the penitentiary system were trained in the field of combating torture and ill-treatment.
- With the support of the Council of Europe in Chisinau and Amnesty International Moldova, in 2016/2017, **30** employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were trained as trainers. In 2017, **686** MIA employees were trained on topics related to protection of human rights.

8.3. Interethnic relations and protection of minorities' rights

The Government of Moldova is constantly developing the legal and policy framework on interethnic relations and protection of minorities' rights. To this end, we believe that it meets the international standards in the field.

With the Support of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, the new **Strategy on inclusive diversity in Moldova** was submitted (*2016-2026*). The Council of Europe provides expert evaluation of the draft.

8.4. Prevention and combating of domestic violence

- Amendments from 2016 to the legislation on preventing and combating domestic violence improved the regulatory framework, and removed certain loopholes and disparities (*Law No. 45/01.03.2017*).
- On 07.02.2017, the Republic of Moldova signed the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**. It is currently ongoing the ratification procedure.
- Starting with 2017, Police is bound to order the issuing of the **emergency restraining order** against the aggressor to immediately remove him/her from the house and impose limitations, and therefore ensure victim and family members' protection.

8.5. Child rights protection

- The **Child Protection Strategy for 2014-2020** was approved. It enforces the provisions of the International Convention on Child Rights to which the Republic of Moldova is a party since December 1990 (*GD No.434 as of 10.06.2014*).
- In February 2017, the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons of the MIA, 2 hearing rooms for victims of trafficking in persons became operational¹. Hearing rooms were designed and equipped in line with international standards with the support of international partners (US Embassy in Moldova; IOM and OSCE).
- The Reports on protection of child rights in Moldova in 2014-2016 are published on the official website of the Ombudsman².
- In 2013, by Law No. **140** the new legal framework in protection and monitoring of children in difficulty was set up. Standards for social care services provided to families with children were approved in 2014 (*GD No. 780/2013*).
- Specialized units on minors and human rights were set up within the Prosecutor's Office.
- During 2013-2015 hearing rooms for minors had been set up and equipped within 8 prosecutor's offices. A particular attention is devoted to minors' detention conditions. Procedures on juvenile probation were established by legal amendments in 2015. Additionally, viable measures on alternatives to imprisonment were set up. Alternative educational programs for social reintegration of minors under probation are enforced.

¹ <http://igp.gov.md/ro/content/conditii-mai-bune-pentru-audierea-victimelor-traficului-de-fiinte-umane>).

² http://ombudsman.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/raport_anual_copii_2016_0.pdf

➤ Starting with 2013, the legal framework on combating trafficking in human beings has been considerably improved. The new law on rehabilitation of crime victims was adopted in 2016. The government mechanism for victims' rehabilitation, including trafficking in persons and children victims will be established. Social and physical assistance and compensation will be provided to crime victims.

➤ Prosecutor's Office through the Unit on Combating Torture will conduct the study on "Torture and ill-treatment against children in the framework of juvenile justice: spreading, impact, prevention, identification, support and reporting". The activity is conducted with the support of EU within the frames of the joint EU-UNICEF Project "Child Protection against Torture in Central Asia and Eastern Europe".

8.6. Gender Equality

➤ During 2014-2016, significant progress was made on adjusting the legal and institutional framework to gender policy, as well as addressing the issue through national sectorial policy. The **National Program on gender equality for 2010-2015** was implemented. Based on the evaluation report, a new **Strategy on gender equality for 2017-2021** was drafted, and is currently under internal consultation.

➤ In April 2016, the Parliament approved the Law providing amendments on: obligation of political parties to contribute to ensuring gender equality and equal opportunities for members; to implement the 40% representation quota for men and women; obligation of mass-media and PR agencies to non-sexist use of language. The Labor Code was amended in order to include 14 days of paternity leave.

➤ The **National Strategy for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence** was approved. The **Regulation on organization and functioning of Rehabilitation Centers for Victims of Domestic Violence** was approved in 2010 along minimum quality standards for social services. The **Regulation on organization and functioning of the Center for Family Aggressors Assistance and Counseling** and its minimum quality standards were approved in 2014.

8.7. Cooperation with Civil Society

➤ Aiming at preventing ill-treatment, partnerships with civil society, international organizations and development partners have been developed.

➤ In the field of child rights protection, Cooperation Memorandums were concluded with: "La Strada" International Center; International Organization for Migration on matters related to assistance of victims of trafficking, including children victims of violence and sexual abuse.

➤ During 2016-2017, **206** joint activities were conducted with **81** NGOs and several Cooperation Agreements were concluded as follows:

- March 2017, Cooperation Agreement between MIA, GPI and Soros-Moldova Foundation aiming at increasing cooperation of Police with civil society to implement the Police Development Strategy for 2016-2020.

- October 2016, Agreement between GPI and Human Rights Institute in Moldova to strengthen practical skills of police officers in the area of human rights to achieve the goals set by Police Development Strategy for 2016-2020.

Furthermore, the rights to freedom of speech and assembly for civil society are equally ensured. Currently, there are over **2.634** religious cults and denominations registered at national level (religious communities and institutions).

8.8. Prevention and combating of terrorism

➤ Amendments to national legislation aim to implement legal instruments, international standards and best practices in the fight against terrorism, protection of fundamental human rights and counteracting of international terrorist threats.

➤ In this regard, particular attention was devoted to implementation of the following international documents: **Resolution 2178 (2014) of the UN Security Council; Additional Protocol to Council of Europe Convention on preventing terrorism**, ratified by Law No. 274/16.12.2016; **Directive (EU) 2016/681 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27.04.2016 on the use of passenger name record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime.**

➤ The adopted anti-terrorist measures have a positive impact on human rights protection. Moreover, the limitations to be imposed on persons in case of anti-terrorist operations have been strictly and rationally regulated so as to ensure that they are in line with constitutional provisions and European judicial precedents (of the European Court for Human Rights) in terms of limitations of fundamental rights. Furthermore, measures related to social protection of victims of terrorist activity (law enforcement officers and civil victims) are now regulated.

8.8. Transfer of temporary detention facilities from the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the Ministry of Justice

➤ According to the **Penalties Enforcement Code of Moldova**, the penitentiary institutions under the Ministry of Justice hold the exclusive responsibility to enforce the preventive detention.

➤ To this end, construction of new penitentiary institutions and establishment of specialized units within the existing ones are carried out in order to create the necessary facilities for enforcing preventive detention.

➤ Negotiations with the Council of Europe Development Bank were conducted in order to launch the construction of a new penitentiary of “Arrest House” type in Chisinau, meeting the European standards. At the meeting with the Management Board of Council of Europe Development Bank on 14.06.2013, a loan of **39** mln. Euro for the Government of Moldova was approved.

➤ The Operational Plan on construction of the penitentiary provides **12** detention buildings for **1536** detainees, **64** cells per building; disciplinary isolator for **50** detainees; medical facility for **128** detainees; transitory block for **128** detainees.

➤ Furthermore, preparation works for construction of the “Arrest House” in Balti have been launched. The facility will have a capacity of **650** persons and will be intended for persons held in provisional arrest sentenced persons.

Esteemed Committee Members,

The Government of Moldova tried its utmost to provide accurate information to the questions and comments raised by the Committee.

We are now prepared to answer the questions.

CLOSING SESSION SPEECH

**ESTEEMED COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Allow me to extend my gratitude for the constructive dialogue during these two days. The observations and comments you have provided are highly valuable for the Republic of Moldova.

As already mentioned, although we have registered tangible progress, we acknowledge the still existing serious deficiencies. To this end, we devote considerable efforts to promote fundamental human rights in a difficult social, economic and even geopolitical context.

I would like to assure you that the Government of Moldova will consider your observations and comments to continue developing the area of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

I would also like to inform you that the Republic of Moldova has established the national priorities on ensuring human rights and elimination of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment. I will mention the most important ones:

- 1) Continue implementation of the specific objectives provided by the Government Action Plan for 2016-2018. Development of the relevant policy and regulatory framework.
- 2) Improve the mechanism of monitoring the international recommendations on human rights by developing a new National Action Plan on Human Rights for 2017-2020.
- 3) Promovarea noului document al politicii sectorului justiției 2018-2021.
- 4) Organize and conduct information campaigns on prevention/ information and education of non-violence culture and combating of torture and ill-treatment.
- 5) Streamline the National Prevention Mechanism (in line with provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment).
- 6) Develop human resources of relevant agencies. Increase the number of women in Police. Develop non-discrimination and gender equality based approaches.
- 7) Continue implementation of objectives under the strategic framework on law enforcement development.
- 8) Continue implementation of objectives under the Penitentiary System Development Strategy for 2016-2020 and the subsequent Action Plan.
- 9) Develop coordinated policy on preventing and combating all forms of violence. Establishment of the Mechanism to support victims of violence and to monitor enforcement of restraining orders.
- 10) Ensure online and offline freedom of expression and personal data protection.
- 11) Develop mechanism to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation, abuse and violence against children.
- 12) Improve enforcement of decisions of the European Court for Human Rights.
- 13) Increase participation of the Republic of Moldova on protection of human rights at international level.
- 14) Ratification of Council of Europe Convention on combating violence against women and domestic violence, signed on 17.02.2017.

Thank you!