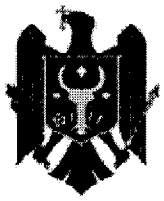
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Mr. Andrei STRATAN

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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

New-York, 1 October 2007

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Mr. President
Mr. Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like, first of all, to join the distinguished speakers who have already addressed this Assembly, in congratulating Mr. Srgjan Kerim on his election as President of the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly.

It also gives me a great pleasure to welcome the election of Mr. Ban Ki-moon as Secretary General and to note the distinct manner in which he has started his activities, as well as his tireless efforts in breathing a new dynamism into the United Nations with the purpose of optimizing its functioning.

Distinguished delegates,

The present session is especially meaningful for the Republic of Moldova, marking the 15th anniversary since it has joined the United Nations family. As a member state of the United Nations, the Republic of Moldova demonstrated faithfulness to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, totally supporting the objectives of the Organization and sharing its responsibilities.

The globalization process is occurring everywhere and preoccupies all of us. As you know, these issues are addressed in the Millennium Declaration. Now, when we are at the midpoint from the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals it is clear that efficient steps are necessary in order to maximize the positive effects or to reduce to minimum the unfavorable ones. In our opinion, the present level of aid is not sufficient and the identification of innovative sources of financing, as well as the increase in the effectiveness of the existing aid, are imperative. In this line, we hope that the recommendations in the areas of development contained in the Secretary General's report on the United Nations System-wide Coherence will help us overcome the UN fragmentation so that the system could deliver as one, in partnership with all member states.

The high level event organized under the auspices of the Secretary General that had preceded our debates brought to our attention climate change whose fatal effects have been experienced all over the world. We know about this very well as our country has suffered this summer the worst drought in the last 60 years. We highly appreciate the UN institutions, and first of all, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and all member states who immediately answered our request for help. We continue to count on such aid in liquidating the consequences of the drought.

Under such circumstances, we stand for the adoption of a new international agreement in this area hoping that the next session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be able to negotiate new arrangements for moving beyond the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. President,

Terrorism remains a major threat to the internal security of the countries and to the international security. In this regard, the Republic of Moldova supports wholeheartedly the UN efforts in fighting terrorism; one of the examples is our joining the International Convention the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Internally, the Government undertook a series of concrete actions on fighting terrorism by adopting the National Strategy for preventing and fighting money laundering and financing terrorism, as well as on applying relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

We see in the present session of the General Assembly an opportunity of finalizing the draft of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism aimed at reaching an international consensus on the normative framework in this area. Heightened attention is to be given to the fight with terrorism nourished by separatist tendencies that affect sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states. I would like to assure you that our delegation will actively participate in coordinating the negotiations process in the 6th Committee of the General Assembly.

The United Nations have represented for decades an adequate forum for tackling different problems related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the new approach to controlling small and light arms and in this context we stand for the new agreement in the area of arms sales, we support the international community's efforts aimed at establishing an efficient security system and arms control system, remaining a faithful supporter of implementing the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty. I would like to reiterate on this occasion the position of the Republic of Moldova according to which the withdrawal of the Russian troops that remain on the Moldovan territory against its will, in conformity with the obligations assumed by the Russian Federation in 1999 in Istanbul, would create the necessary premises for ratifying and applying the Adapted CFE Treaty.

The Transdniestrian conflict remains a continuous obstacle in promoting reforms and ensuring social and economic development of our country. A year ago we addressed from this high forum's tribune the problems related to this conflict in great detail, expressing hope for a final sustainable solution. Today I have to regretfully state that the negotiations process suspended from April 2006 because of the rigid and non-constructive position of the separatist leaders supported from outside of Moldova could not be restarted in spite of our constant efforts, this is serving as a screen for promoting some political and mafia interests foreign to the people of this region. Continuous violation of the fundamental human rights in the Transdniestrian region and the inefficiency of the existing peacekeeping mechanism make imperative the need of transforming it into a multinational civil mission with an international mandate.

Mr. President,

In the context of the UN consolidation the Republic of Moldova supports the adoption of the decisions necessary for revitalization of the General Assembly, reform of the Security Council, strengthening of the Social and Economic Council. In this respect, we consider that the Security Council needs to be extended in both permanent and non-permanent categories, as a result of which the Eastern European Group would be offered an additional non-permanent membership seat.

We welcome the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on strengthening the ECOSOC, the major body for coordinating the UN economic and social activities. The Republic of Moldova presented its candidature for the current year elections in the Economic and Social Council and I am taking this occasion to thank all the member states that granted us their trust.

Distinguished delegates,

The Republic of Moldova has constantly supported maintenance and consolidation of the Organization's role in solving crisis and conflict situations, post conflict rehabilitation and providing humanitarian assistance to the affected zones in different parts of the world, especially to the zones affected by conflicts, including the GUAM region. In this respect, we welcome the decision of the General Assembly to maintain on the current session's agenda the item dedicated to the "protracted conflicts in the GUAM region and their implications on peace, international security and development", continuing to pay to them an increased attention.

Mr. President,

At the end of my statement, Mr. President, I would like to reaffirm the will of the state I represent to cooperate and actively contribute to the conjugated effort of the member states to strengthen the UN as the organization that holds the key role in peacekeeping, security and sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention