



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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STATEMENT
of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental
Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the 2nd Session of the Meeting of the
Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol
(Geneva, 5 June 2014)

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by extending our thanks to the Secretariat and the Bureau for the excellent organization of the current meetings of States-Parties.

We are also very appreciative of the substantive work done during the general segment of the joint sessions, as well for the reports on the outcomes of two thematic seminars presented for consideration this morning.

In conjunction with the important decisions to be taken today on various activities under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol, including on nuclear energy-related activities, this joint meeting makes a meaningful contribution towards the achievement of environmentally sustainable development in the ECE region and beyond.

My delegation associates itself with the EU statement and fully shares the views contained therein. On a more particular note, however, please allow me to briefly showcase my country's recent implementation efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The role of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol is essential in setting up the framework for environmental assessment in a transboundary context, as well as for the development of an open dialogue and confidence between States Parties. It is imperative, therefore, that the provisions of the Convention and its Protocol are translated into concrete national laws of each State Party.

Just recently, on the 29th of May, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova has adopted a new *Law on environmental impact assessment* which is fully in line with the Espoo Convention. Provided the Republic of Moldova's strong European aspirations, this law meets also the requirements of the EU Directive 2011/92 on the assessment of effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

The new law contains important provisions deriving from the *Amendments I and II* of the *Espoo Convention*, a fact that it is indicative of the existing political will to proceed, in the near future, with the ratification of those two amendments. Still in this context, I would like to express gratitude to the Government of Latvia for supporting the efforts to prepare the concerned document.

Mr. Chairman,

The ratification of the *Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment* (SEA Protocol) is another important priority that requires, as a first step, the re-evaluation of the existing national legal framework and the development of relevant recommendations.

The programme "*Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood*" has been instrumental from this perspective and has facilitated, *inter alia*, the convening, in September 2013, of a national round table on Strategic Environmental Assessment. The outcomes of the round table highlighted the need to put in place a clear legal framework and to develop methodological regulations.

As a result, a *draft law on strategic environmental assessment* has been elaborated. The draft meets the requirements of the SEA Protocol and the EU Directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

This document and the *draft law on the ratification by the Republic of Moldova of the SEA Protocol* are currently subjects of internal coordination.

Obviously, we are aware that the implementation of the SEA Protocol is a complex task that requires not only adequate human and financial resources but also establishing collaborative networks between Parties and experience sharing. Therefore, in the process of national implementation, we will rely on support and advice of our international partners.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me stress that the Republic of Moldova attaches great importance to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol and looks forward to actively participate in the States-Parties' common endeavours during the next inter-sessional period.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.