



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

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STATEMENT
by Mr. Victor Moraru
Representative of the Republic of Moldova
at the 2009 meetings of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of
the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Geneva, 25 May 2009

Mr. Co-Chair,
Distinguished participants,

Let me begin by thanking the Coordinator of the informal Article 7 Contact Group (Belgium) for his clear overview of steps taken since the Ninth Meeting of States Parties aimed at improving transparency and the exchange of information.

We appreciate the continued efforts of the Contact Group to raise awareness on transparency reporting obligations and to assist State Parties to fulfill their Article 7 obligations. Since its establishment in 2000, the Group has done much to promote compliance with these obligations.

We support its current emphasis on the need to improve, *inter alia*, the overall annual transparency reporting rate, which has regrettably declined in the last years. The duty to provide information on time rests, after all, with the States Parties and it is imperative that this obligation is fully honored. It is in this context that we praise those States, not yet Parties to the Convention, which submitted voluntary transparency reports.

Mr. Co-Chair,

This meeting of the Standing Committee is another opportunity for the States Parties to provide updates on the application of actions in the *Nairobi Action Plan* that concern transparency and the exchange of information, on the practical implementation of other relevant provisions, as well as on matters not specifically required but which may assist in the implementation process of the Convention.

Having also in mind the specific priorities identified by the Ninth Meeting of States Parties for the period leading to the Second Review Conference, my delegation wishes to highlight some issues related to the implementation of the Convention in my country.

Further to the recognition made by the State Parties that transparency and the effective information exchange will be equally crucial to fulfilling their obligations, the Republic of Moldova has sought to act in conformity with the actions #51 through #58 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*.

Among others, we have participated in the relevant exchanges of views and shared our experiences, in a cooperative and informal manner, on the practical implementation of the various provisions of the Convention, including Articles 1, 2 and 3.

As required by the Article 7.2, the Republic of Moldova submitted transparency reports on annual basis. Those reports included the relevant information in regard to the national territory controlled by the constitutional authorities.

Since the central Government has been effectively prevented from having access in the eastern part of the country, currently controlled by an anti-constitutional entity, it was not possible to collect and report accurate information concerning the issue of anti-personal mines in the Transnistrian region.

Recognizing the important complementary role that NGOs could play in the broader context of implementation of the actions #7 and #46 of the *Nairobi Action Plan*, the Moldovan Government has invited the *Geneva Call* to engage the representatives of the anti-constitutional entity with a view to facilitate the implementation of the Convention in the eastern part of the country.

During the 2008 First Assessment Meeting of the *Geneva Call* to Moldova, the issue how to engage the non-State actor referred to, as well as other practical matters have been thoroughly discussed, including with the representatives of the Moldovan NGOs and of the OSCE Office in Chishinau.

As follow-up, *Geneva Call* will seek meetings with the anti-constitutional authorities and with civil society organizations there.

We anticipate that these specific activities will facilitate, in particular, the gathering of accurate and verifiable information on mine issue in Transnistrian region.

Such information, if obtained, should help the Government to pursue adequate implementation measures, as required by the relevant provisions and procedures under the Convention.

Mr. Co-Chair,

The Republic of Moldova has carried out in good faith the obligations which it assumed by the Ottawa Convention.

The destruction of all anti-personnel mines far ahead of the established deadlines under Articles 4 and 5 is a testimony of this commitment.

My country will continue to do every effort to fulfill its specific obligations under the Convention in regard to eastern part of the country.

To this end, we stand ready to cooperate in full transparency with all interested State Parties, as well as with *Geneva Call* and other relevant non-governmental organizations.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the Republic of Moldova fully identifies with the statement of the European Union made earlier by the distinguished representative of the Czech Republic.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.