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INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

ON THE ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

OPENING STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

GENERAL POSITION

Luxembourg, 25 June 2024

GENERAL REMARKS

1. The Republic of Moldova (hereinafter Moldova) welcomes the convening of the first Intergovernmental Conference, and it extends its heartfelt gratitude to the European Union and its Member States for their unwavering support and dedication to the European integration process of our country.

2. For Moldova, the European Union is foremost a project of peace, development, and modernisation. We recognize the EU's pivotal role in facilitating our journey towards institutional consolidation, economic prosperity and progress in the short, medium, and long term, and comprehensive security: they are milestones along our way towards European integration.

3. Moldova views EU membership as the cornerstone of our democratisation process, rule of law consolidation, and the strengthening of its institutions and its resilience. We are committed to upholding EU values, including fundamental rights, democracy, and the rule of law, as we strive towards full integration into the European family.

4. The decision of the European Council of December 2023 to open accession negotiations with our country and today's convening of the first Intergovernmental Conference are historic milestones in our endeavour to become part of a democratic, peaceful and prosperous community. These developments signify our shared commitment to advancing the EU accession process and deepening the political and economic interdependence between Moldova and the European Union.

5. The European integration of Moldova relies on support from its citizens and a broad array of political parties. We are eager to reconfirm democratically this support at the referendum on the pro-European course of the country to be held on 20 October 2024. We are dedicated to fostering dialogue, promoting awareness, and engaging citizens during the European integration process, ensuring that their voices and aspirations are heard and represented at every stage of the negotiations.

6. Moldova reaffirms its commitment to aligning with EU values, principles, and standards, including respect for fundamental rights, democracy, and the rule of law. We recognise that adherence to these values is essential for building a just, open, prosperous, and inclusive society.

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7. Ensuring the independence, integrity and accountability of the justice system remains a key priority for Moldova during its EU accession process. We have made important progress in advancing justice reform and intensifying efforts to combat corruption. Step by step, the efforts undertaken in the framework of the comprehensive justice system reform have laid the basis for an independent and non-corrupt justice sector, accountable to the law, while preventing a protracted gridlock of the judiciary. Anti-corruption efforts are mainstreamed across all institutions, with a particular focus on tackling high-level corruption. We are committed to realising the judiciary's independence, enhancing transparency, and fostering accountability to ensure the financial and professional integrity, effectiveness and accountability of our justice system.

8. Moldova becoming an EU member state will contribute to a wider shared European area of peace, stability and prosperity, to an expanding EU market, provide for new opportunities for trade and investment for EU businesses, diversify EU's supply chains, and foster innovation, technological collaboration and overall economic growth. We aim to create and preserve a stable financial and macroeconomic environment and enable a dynamic economy in line with EU standards. Moldova will continue to harmonise its legislation with the EU *acquis* to that end.

9. Moldova remains fully committed to participating in EU programmes and aligning with EU strategies to combat organised crime and corruption. Both phenomena serve often as a conduit for hybrid operations inside the EU and Moldova. Thus, we recognise the importance of cooperation and coordination with EU Member States and specialised institutions in addressing shared challenges and promoting European stability and security.

10. Moldova unequivocally condemns Russia's unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine and stands in full solidarity with the Ukrainian people. We reiterate our strong commitment to international law, and to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

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11. Moldova pledges its support for the EU's border security efforts, recognizing the importance of secure and well-managed borders for ensuring the safety and security of citizens. We have been a reliable partner in the European efforts to give shelter to Ukrainian refugees fleeing their homes from Russia's ruthless attacks. The security challenges at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border impacts the security of the entire EU. Moldova is committed to effectively countering transborder crime and enhancing security and to cooperating in the EU initiatives in Moldova, notably the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management, the EU Partnership Mission, Frontex, EUBAM, and other initiatives by EU agencies and EU Member States.

12. Moldova is committed to aligning with EU migration and asylum policies, ensuring the effective management of migration flows and the protection of human rights. We are gradually building up our capacities and redesigning our processes. We recognise the need for solidarity and burden-sharing in addressing migration-related challenges.

13. Since 2014, nearly 2.5 million Moldovan citizens have benefited from visa-free travel to the Schengen area. Moldova has consistently demonstrated its reliability as a partner of the European Union, maintaining its privileged status over the last ten years. Moldova commits to adopting and implementing the evolving Schengen rules and regulations.

14. Moldova intends to be not only a beneficiary from, but also a contributor to European and global security. Moldova shares the goals and principles of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and is dedicated to contributing and intensifying the cooperation in this area to better address shared challenges in the framework of the Security and Defence Partnership.

15. Moldova pledges to align gradually with the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence and with CFSP decisions, contributing to regional and global peace, security, and stability. Moldova reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism and global cooperation, recognising the importance of collective action in addressing complex challenges. We are ready to increase our active contribution to international efforts aimed at promoting peace, security, and sustainable development.

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16. Moldova views EU accession as a strategic opportunity to enhance regional stability, prosperity, and cooperation in the broader European context. We enjoy good relations and comprehensive cooperation with the neighbouring countries, and maintain excellent cooperation with the EU Member States. We remain committed to further deepening friendly relations with other EU candidate countries.

17. Moldova expresses deep appreciation for the financial assistance provided by the European Union and the EU Member States and commits to utilising allocated resources effectively to promote economic development, social cohesion, sustainable growth, and accelerated convergence with the EU. We are committed to deepening economic integration with the EU and enhancing our competitiveness in the European market. We also look forward to accessing the EU's pre-accession instruments to support our transformation processes.

18. For the first time since obtaining candidate status, Moldova submitted its Economic Reform Programme (ERP) for 2024-2026, with a focus on Moldova's macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks. We are committed to take on board the European Commission's recommendations on Moldova's ERP, which will further strengthen our preparedness to join the EU. Moreover, the Government is drafting Moldova's Growth Plan, based on concrete reforms and investments designed to support Moldova's accession to the EU internal market and promote inclusive growth across the country. The Plan will be aligned with existing strategic documents, incorporating priority reforms.

19. The European Union stands as Moldova's largest trading partner. Moldova recognises that establishing a functioning market economy is a prerequisite for benefiting from and contributing to the EU internal market. Moldova remains committed to further aligning its legislation with the EU *acquis* on the free movement of goods, workers, services, and capital.

20. Moldova takes pride in its rich cultural heritage and linguistic diversity. Our cultural identity is an integral part of the European cultural landscape and language community, giving us the potential to contribute to the cultural richness and diversity of the European Union.

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21. Minority ethnic groups in the Republic of Moldova enjoy and exercise human rights and fundamental freedoms equally before the law. They have the right to express their ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity without prohibition or coercion, in accordance with the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Moldova is committed to ensuring the full respect of their rights and freedoms.

22. Moldova's vibrant civil society, which is actively involved in the process of European integration, will bring new perspectives and experiences to the EU, enriching the dialogue on fundamental values within the Union. We are committed to become an active and reliable EU member state, assuming all obligations for membership.

23. Moldova is a country with a considerable share of its population residing abroad, especially in EU Member States. We will greatly benefit from their experience and expertise during our accession negotiations and as a member state.

THE INTEGRATION PROCESS

24. The relationship between Moldova and the European Union has evolved markedly since the signing of the Association Agreement (AA), including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) on 27 June 2014, which entered into force on 1 July 2016. The agreement marked a decisive step in Moldova's European integration journey, enhancing political association and economic integration with the EU. For the past ten years, the AA/DCFTA has remained the key driver of Moldova's economic progress, cultivating a robust economic and trade relationship with the EU, as well as promoting the functioning market economy and sustainable development.

25. The fulfilment of the commitments under the AA/DCFTA has been the subject of our structured dialogue. In this regard, we highlight the Association Council Moldova-EU that took place on 21 May 2024. We are dedicated to maintaining our dialogue along both the association and accession paths.

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26. The implementation of the AA/DCFTA provisions by both parties will strengthen our preparations for accession and respond to the evolving nature of Moldova-EU relations. Moldova will continue to ensure compliance with the AA/DCFTA as a stepping stone for the EU accession process.

27. In the spirit of accelerated integration, Moldova continues its association with EU programmes such as EU4Health, Customs, Fiscalis, Connecting Europe Facility, and Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EaSI).

28. Moldova is already gradually integrating in the European economic processes, taking numerous measures to prepare entrepreneurs for a competitive EU economy. Important steps for Moldova's gradual integration into the EU's Single Market are the accession to the Single Market Programme and Digital Europe Programme, as well as the application to join the Single Euro Payments Area. Among our top priorities is joining the EU's "Roam Like at Home" policy and the ratification of the Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA) to further integrate Moldova into the Single Market. We also prioritise integration into the EU energy market by joining Moldova's central energy supplier Energocom to the European Union's common platform for the purchase of natural gas and by associating Moldelectrica as an observer member of ENTSO-E.

29. Our institutions dedicate considerable efforts to harmonise national legislation with the European standards, by *inter alia* accelerating the implementation of the AA/DCFTA commitments and the Priority Action Plan, and including the updated DCFTA annexes with the latest *acquis* on telecom, postal and courier services. We are committed to continue building robust institutions and consolidate their capacities in order to ensure the continuity and dynamic pace of the accession process.

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30. Moldova will progressively align its legislation with the EU *acquis* and ensure its application. For the alignment with the *acquis*, the Government adopted the National Plan for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) for the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the European Union for 2024–2027, resulting from intensive collaboration among numerous institutions and consultations with civil society. The NPAA was updated following the recommendations made in the 2023 Enlargement Package.

SUBSTANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS

31. In June 2024, the European Commission concluded that Moldova had fulfilled the nine recommendations made in June 2022 upon granting candidate status. Moldova welcomes the Council Conclusions of March 2024, the adoption of the negotiating framework by the General Affairs Council, and the convening of the first Intergovernmental Conference.

32. Moldova welcomes the commencement of negotiations, as outlined in the recently adopted negotiating framework for the country. At this point, Moldova does not seek to opt out from any EU policies.

33. During accession negotiations, Moldova may request transitional periods for sectors where it is not yet fully prepared for complete harmonisation and implementation at the time of its EU accession. These transitional periods will be limited in duration and scope, allowing for a phased approach to align with and implement EU membership obligations in sectors where immediate compliance could significantly challenge the current state of the economy. These requests will be justified, well defined in time, and accompanied by plans with clearly defined phases for fulfilling membership obligations. Moldova aims for the earliest possible accession, with necessary transitional arrangements to facilitate the smooth integration into the EU economy. In this sense, EU assistance, guidance and support will be necessary.

PUBLIC

34. Moldova shares the values and principles of the European Union in the area of **justice and human rights** as fortified and protected by the EU *acquis*. Moldova is further determined to strengthen the legal framework and the institutional capacities in fighting corruption and demonstrate a solid track-record in investigating and convicting high corruption cases. Moldova is committed to create conditions for the representatives of all legal professions to reach the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and ethics. Efforts will be fostered to ensure the implementation of the EU values in respect for fundamental rights and freedoms as these remain at the core of the accession process. Enhancing international legal cooperation mechanisms through international instruments and judicial cooperation networks will remain a priority in upholding the international legal order.

35. Moldova commits to the EU *acquis* in the area of **justice, freedom and security** and will take all necessary actions to contribute to the EU's security by fighting all forms of organised crime. Moldova focuses on strengthening judicial cooperation, external borders, international police cooperation, innovation and training in the fight against organised crime, money laundering, thereby contributing to the European security ecosystem. Transitional periods may be needed to align with evolving EU legislation, especially regarding the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

36. **Moldova will build a competitive, resilient, green and digitalised knowledge economy,** based on the services sector and the growing industries, with a stable, competitive, investment-enabling environment, increased innovation capacities and a high degree of human capital development.

37. Moldova's **2030 National Economic Development Strategy** focuses on sectors with a high potential for accelerated, inclusive and sustainable growth, notably services of information technology (IT and software services); creative industries; business process outsourcing (BPO); tourism and the recovery industry; e-commerce, logistics and transport; health services and healthcare; education; research, innovation and technological development; as well as the electronics industry; pharmaceutical industry; textiles, footwear and own-brand decoration; electrical equipment and mechanical appliances; food and processing industry; waste management, energy efficient construction and renewable energy production.

38. **Integrating into the EU Single Market** will bring new economic opportunities and attract investment, boost productivity, create jobs and enhance export potential. Boosting the industrial sector is one of the key action areas. Moldova will roll out support programmes for local producers and small and medium enterprises to help them capitalise on the opportunities offered by the EU market.

39. Moldova regards **agriculture and rural development** as key sectors for fostering economic growth, generating employment, and promoting sustainable development. The agrifood sector plays a crucial role in Moldova's GDP and is essential for living standards in rural areas. Nearly half of Moldova's exports originate from this sector, underscoring its critical importance for the country's economic stability and growth. By prioritising this sector, Moldova aims to reduce regional disparities, promote balanced economic growth, and ensure food security.

    Moldova is committed to integrating its agrifood sector into the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and to undertaking measures to modernise and diversify agriculture. This involves fulfilling related commitments, including those concerning the organisation of markets and trade mechanisms. Moreover, Moldova is prioritising the establishment of efficient administrative, control, monitoring, and reporting systems to manage EU support effectively and transparently. Adhering to CAP standards necessitates significant investments in sustainable, innovative agricultural practices, environmental protection, and green growth, potentially requiring transitional periods.

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40. Moldova prioritises **environmental protection and sustainability**, recognizing the pressing need to address environmental challenges and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We are committed to aligning with EU environmental standards, implementing green policies and practices, and promoting sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations. Moldova is progressing towards alignment with the environmental and climate *acquis* of the European Union, aiming to meet EU environmental standards and achieve climate neutrality. In parallel, efforts are underway to transition towards a more environmentally sustainable economy, promote circular economy principles, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These efforts are designed to enhance the competitiveness of Moldova's economy through comprehensive life-cycle analysis and minimising the environmental footprint. Moldova is also committed to reducing pollution, preserving biodiversity, and implementing nature conservation measures.

    By gradually complying with the EU *acquis*, Moldova aims to steadily advance towards the environmental and climate objectives of the EU. Transitional measures will be sought for certain provisions of the *acquis* that require significant investment or that prove to have a significant impact on the sustainability of our economy.

41. Moldova recognises the importance of modernising **transport and energy infrastructure** to enhance connectivity, promote trade and investment, ensure Moldova’s energy security, and contribute to the EU’s energy security, as well as to the reconstruction of Ukraine. We are committed to aligning with EU standards and regulations in these critical sectors and leveraging EU support to accelerate infrastructure development and integration.

42. Moldova is committed to align its **transport sector** to the EU Transport Policy, focusing on market liberalisation, particularly in rail transport, as well as decarbonisation and electrification of the transport sector and enhancing road transport efficiency. More efforts will be made for improving multimodal transport and integrating into the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and road safety. Moldova is dedicated to aligning its national transport policies with the TEN-T guidelines, emphasising the development of core network corridors that will enhance the country’s interconnectivity with EU countries. Given the extensive requirements and investments needed, we may seek transitional periods, ensuring a phased and realistic approach to compliance and implementation.

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43. Moldova is committed to create a competitive and sustainable **energy sector**, integrated into European markets, ensuring energy security and affordable energy for consumers. Actions will focus on strengthening energy security through increased cross-border electricity and gas interconnection capacity, diversifying energy sources, through the harnessing of domestic renewable energy resources and promoting energy efficiency. Moldova aims to serve as a bridge on the North-South energy corridor, connecting gas storage in Ukraine to south eastern Europe, including SEE LNG terminals. Prioritising measures to strengthen electricity interconnection and diversification, Moldova can effectively mitigate security of supply risks while fostering stronger ties between the EU and neighbouring regions. The principle of "energy efficiency first" will be applied throughout the entire economy and the development of sustainable renewable energy will be promoted in parallel with actions to mitigate climate change and its negative effects. The National Energy–Climate Plan 2030 (NECP) and the Energy Strategy with a vision for 2050 will be approved by end 2024. The NECP will guarantee the fulfilment of our energy and climate targets for 2030, while the Strategy will provide a long-term roadmap for energy sector development and investment. Considering the substantial investments required, we may request transitional periods in this sector to enable a gradual approach to complying with and implementing the EU *acquis*.

44. Recognising the **key role of the services industry** in Moldova's economic landscape, the government places a strong emphasis on aligning rules and regulations with standards set by the European Union, along with fostering an environment stimulating innovation, efficiency, and competitiveness. In this way, Moldova seeks to enhance its attractiveness as a destination for investment and trade, thereby ensuring the sustainable growth of its services sector.

45. Moldova is dedicated to developing a **competitive and sustainable tourism sector** integrated into European markets. This initiative will focus on four priorities: promoting public and private investment, investing in market-driven innovation and technological readiness in small and medium enterprises, consolidating and developing tourism products, improving tourism services, and supporting destination tourism management.

PUBLIC

46. **Digital transformation** is an economic enabler that can offer Moldova the opportunity for accelerated growth while enhancing economic productivity, the efficiency of public services and preventing corruption. It is imperative for Moldova to align with European standards in critical areas such as digital service delivery, data protection, digital identification, and cybersecurity. This alignment is crucial for enhancing transparency and for the fight against corruption. The Digital Transformation Strategy for 2023-2030 provides a comprehensive roadmap for achieving these objectives. Digitalization will significantly improve the quality, efficiency and accountability of public service delivery and empower citizens and businesses. We have expressed our interest to be included in the Cyber Reserve Fund, which is set to come into effect from October 2024, part of the Cyber Resilience Act. Our goal is to be part of this initiative from day one, thus consolidating our capacities to countering and managing cyber incidents.

47. **Free media** holds a pivotal role in defending democracy and building a cohesive society. In this connection, the protection of an independent media landscape that is free from disinformation, concentration of media ownership and unfair competition practices holds great importance. By empowering citizens with access to objective and reliable news resources, Moldova will strengthen its democratic institutions and build a more resilient society thanks to increased media freedom literacy efforts. The Government has made several commitments to improve the media landscape, including the Media Subsidy Fund, created in 2024.

48. The **financial sector** in Moldova has evolved strongly during recent years, especially due to significant support from the EU and its Member States. The Moldovan banking system has undergone significant strengthening, resulting in a stable, resilient, well-capitalised, and well-governed sector that has weathered multiple recent crises. Legislative alignment with the EU was pursued to enhance good governance, market transparency, investor protection, facilitate cross-border trading, thereby aiming to ensure a more integrated and efficient financial market. The country will continue to strengthen the independence of the National Bank of Moldova and align the prohibition of monetising public debt with EU rules.

PUBLIC

49. Moldova created a solid normative and institutional framework for constant improvement of **public finance management**, financial control system and good governance. The country will further develop accountability mechanisms, through sound internal control and functional internal audit in central and local authorities, based on international standards and EU best practices.

50. Moldova aims to align its **competition policies** and practices with EU standards to foster a fair and competitive market environment conducive to economic growth and consumer welfare. Moldova commits to aligning its competition laws, regulations, and enforcement mechanisms with EU competition rules, and will progressively adjust its mechanisms for controlling **state aid** to prevent competition distortion. Transitional periods, however, may be requested to allow for sufficient time and investments to increase productivity.

51. Moldova prioritises efforts to reduce **regional disparities** and promote **social and economic cohesion** across our country. We recognise the importance of inclusive growth, equitable development, and social justice in building a prosperous and resilient society that benefits all citizens. Moldova is committed to adopting and implementing the principles of partnership, multi-level governance, and integrated territorial development, ensuring that our regions can fully benefit from EU support, in line with the EU cohesion policy goals. Moldova will ensure adequate administrative capacities for the effective absorption and management of EU structural and investment funds, promoting sustainable development, and reducing economic and social disparities across regions. Moldova commits to revising its legislative framework and institutional structures to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability of funds management.

PUBLIC

52. Moldova is committed to **creating more and better jobs for everyone.** We will do this by tackling informal work, implementing active employment measures, modernising the education system, and prioritising social inclusion to enhance labour market participation and promote sustainable employment opportunities. Equally important, our strong commitment is to establish modern and efficient labour market institutions, strengthen the capacities of the State Labour Inspectorate, National Employment Agency, with a specific focus on labour law, health and safety at work and non-discrimination according to the EU standards, and promotion of social dialogue. We recognise the importance of investing in human capital and fostering an enabling environment for **entrepreneurship and innovation**, thus driving economic growth, fostering competitiveness, and unlocking the full potential of our economy.

53. Moldova reiterates its commitment to invest in **education** as an essential field for ensuring the country's sustainable development and promoting social cohesion, values and principles on which the EU is based. Through the objectives set in the Strategies for education and youth, our efforts will focus on promoting the quality of education and lifelong learning for all, investing in teachers, creating motivating and safe school environments, promoting inclusive education and connecting professional training and skills to the current and future needs of the labour market. Our aspiration is to become an active member of the European Education Area.

54. Moldova follows the EU *acquis* in the field of **healthcare** and is committed to the overall improvement of its healthcare system by scaling-up actions on non-communicable disease prevention, ensuring digital transformation of the sector, and sustaining the healthcare workforce. In line with the new EU health security framework, Moldova will continue to develop and implement effective systems of surveillance to prevent and better manage cross-border health threats. In the area of medicinal products and medical devices, a continued process of harmonisation with the EU quality and safety standards will allow Moldova to join the Single Market for health products. As the country makes progress in this area, the main strategic objective will be to ensure and increase the availability and affordability of essential medicines for all Moldovan citizens.

PUBLIC

55. Moldova underlines the importance of **cultural development and heritage protection.** We are committed to integrating the cultural sector into the country's sustainable development process, ensuring equitable access to cultural services for all citizens, supporting cultural diversity and inclusion, preserving and leveraging cultural heritage, and stimulating the growth of cultural and creative industries.

PUBLIC

THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS

56. Moldova supports the principle of merit-based individual progress as the foundation of its EU accession process.

57. The overarching objective of the accession negotiations is for Moldova to achieve full membership in the European Union, encompassing all associated rights and responsibilities. Moldova anticipates that the negotiations will proceed smoothly and in a spirit of cooperation, with outcomes that are mutually advantageous. Moldova's accession to the European Union aims to safeguard peace and prosperity, which are essential interests for our citizens.

58. Recognizing that advancements in the “Fundamentals” Cluster is pivotal to the overall pace of negotiations, Moldova will focus actively on aligning national legislation with the *acquis* and international standards pertaining to the chapters and criteria in this Cluster in order to create a robust track record of implementation.

59. Moldova is well-placed in its accession negotiations thanks to the systematic alignment of its legislation with the EU *acquis* since 2014. In accordance with its commitments under the AA/DCFTA, Moldova has made steady progress in harmonising its legislation with the EU rules and regulations. Moldova aims to achieve domestic readiness to align its legislation with the EU *acquis* and tend to ensure its efficient implementation by 2030.

60. Recognising the challenges ahead, the Government of Moldova has been steadfast in enhancing administrative capacities across all areas related to its European integration. We have established an operational institutional framework. Government Decision 868/2022 set up the Working Groups and a national coordination mechanism for European integration. Additionally, the Bureau for European Integration, the national coordinating centre for the accession process, was set up within the State Chancellery by Government Decision 888/2023. Government Decision 180/2024 consolidates this mechanism by updating the inter-institutional coordination of Moldova's accession process, ensuring continuity and enhancing coordination of the Working Groups at all levels. This decision also delineated the roles and responsibilities of the Core Negotiating Team and of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, who serves as Moldova's Chief Negotiator. Moldova will continue to streamline its integration structures to fully meet the requirements of the accession negotiations.

61. During the accession negotiations, the National Commission for European Integration, chaired by the President of the Republic of Moldova, will serve as the platform for political discussions on the strategic and political objectives of EU integration. The Moldovan Parliament will undertake key roles in legal alignment, monitoring, scrutiny, and international and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

62. Throughout the negotiations, the Government of Moldova will maintain regular reporting to the Parliament and the National Commission for European Integration on the progress of the country's EU accession process.

63. Moldova underscores the importance of dialogue with civil society and meaningful stakeholder engagement in the EU accession process, to help reflect their interests and aspirations. We recognise the value of civil society organisations in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance, and we are committed to fostering a conducive environment for their active participation and contribution. Stakeholders, including civil society, businesses, trade unions, and local communities, are represented in the National Commission for European Integration.

PUBLIC

64. Ensuring transparency, communication and an inclusive consultation process during the negotiation process are key to promoting continuous public support of all Moldovan citizens. The Government will promote inclusive awareness raising and communication in Romanian, the official language of Moldova, and the languages of minority ethnic groups.

65. Moldova acknowledges that the duration and pace of accession negotiations depend on our ability to meet EU obligations and commitments effectively. We are committed to fulfilling our responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner, with a view to advancing the negotiation process and achieving tangible results for our citizens and our European partners.

66. Moldova reaffirms its commitment to adopting the Accession Treaty in line with constitutional provisions and legal requirements. We are dedicated to ensuring the smooth and orderly transition to EU membership, with full respect for democratic principles, the rule of law, and the will of the people of Moldova.

67. Moldova views the commencement of accession negotiations as a historic opportunity to consolidate democratic governance, strengthen institutions, promote sustainable development, and contribute to a stronger, and more resilient European Union. We are committed to working closely with the European Union and its Member States to realise our shared vision of European integration.

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