



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

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STATEMENT

**by Mr. Valeriu OSTALEP, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and
European Integration of the Republic of Moldova
at the 96th session of the International Organization for Migration Council**

Geneva, 2 December 2008

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director General,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honor and pleasure for me to lead for the first time the Republic of Moldova delegation to the 96th session of the IOM Council.

As the Republic of Moldova aligned itself with the EU Presidency declaration, I would like to deliver a statement in our national capacity.

From the outset, I would like to congratulate His Excellency William Lacy Swing for his election to the position of the head of the IOM and to wish him success in fulfilling his highly responsible duties.

At the same time, I would like to pay tribute to the remarkable efforts of the IOM's national and international staff that devoted and effectively carry out the organization's programmes on the ground, in the conditions when migration issues are one of the foremost concerns and opportunities of our time.

Distinguished delegates,

We note today that the international community is facing a huge spectre of threats including the dimensions of migration. In this context, I would like to emphasize that migration policy for the Government of the Republic of Moldova represents a high priority, in particular in the process of gradual European integration and in the elaboration process of comprehensive and cooperative migration management strategies.

Recently the focus has increasingly turned to the strengthening of the new migration management system, which is in accordance with the EU member states good practices and standards, and to the implementation of the Republic of Moldova-European Union Mobility Partnership, signed on 5 June 2008.

According to the Joint Declaration, the Mobility Partnership's objectives comprise establishment of cooperation on migration and development, prevention and fighting illegal migration, trafficking and smuggling of human beings, as well as promotion of the effective readmission and return policy.

This pilot-initiative is in agreement with Moldovan migration policy, in particular within the facilitation dialogue on liberalization of the visa regime between the Republic of Moldova and the EU, and gradual access to the European Union's freedoms.

In this context, it is worth emphasizing that Moldova highly appreciates the support in this regard of the participating EU Member States, namely the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the French Republic, the Hellenic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Hungary, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, Romania, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic and the Kingdom of Sweden, and of the IOM contribution.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Moldova considers that effective management of migration could be achieving only through regional and international dialogue and cooperation. In addition, in order to develop a shared approach able to maximize the constructive potential of migration and to reduce its disruptive effects, the perspectives and needs of countries at each point along the migration spectrum need to be understood.

At the same time, Moldovan authorities strongly believe that the increasing support provided by the IOM, and its Office in Chisinau including by implementation of different projects and programmes, are in line with the goals of the National Migration Policy.

In this respect, I would like to express our gratitude for the IOM initiative to organise a Donors visit in Moldova and Ukraine, held from 6 to 10 October this year. We consider that this event provided a possibility for donors' countries (*Germany, Italy, Portugal, USA, and Norway*) to observe directly in the field the positive impact of the IOM projects and effectiveness of the IOM's partnerships with various national authorities.

Since opening its Office in Moldova in January 2001, IOM has extensively contributed to enhancing the migration management capacities in the country and assuring an integral approach to solving the migration problems.

Mr. Director General,

The Republic of Moldova appreciates the IOM contribution in consolidating the role of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which emphasized the trends and challenges in the implementation of the national and international policies, as well as the determination of the member states to involve additional efforts in this regard. Accordingly, we welcome the recent Global Forum held in Manila and wish all the success to the Greek authorities in the organization of the next one in November 2009 in Athens.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the efficient activity of the International Organization for Migration in Moldova and the cooperation it has established with Moldovan authorities and to assure you of our support in future endeavors.

Also, on behalf of the Republic of Moldova, I would like to wish you Mr. Director General and all your team, international and local staff every success in fulfilling your mandate and going beyond all challenges.

Thank you.