

Statement by Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

On the occasion of the signing by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine of the bilateral Treaty on Co-operation on Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin,
Rome, 29 November 2012

Ms. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate Minister Salaru and Minister Stavvtskiy to have taken this important step today. The signing of the Dniester Treaty during the Water Convention Meeting of the Parties in front of a global audience gives the countries represented a good example to follow. I would like to thank you for this.

Since 2004 UNECE and its close partners OSCE and UNEP in the ENVSEC Partnership have worked with your ministries to develop the Dniester cooperation.

The Dniester process has been truly participatory with a strong involvement of authorities from various sectors, non-governmental organizations, academia as well as the international community. Moreover, the number of officials, experts and representatives of the public contributing to the process has grown over the years.

The Dniester process has benefitted from the willingness of all partners to participate constructively. I would like to pay tribute to all of the many organizations and individuals that made important contributions to this process, it is simply impossible to name them all. I would also like to thank the Governments of Finland and Sweden that have provided much of the funding to make this work possible.

I would also like to stress the effective cooperation that we have had in this process with our partners OSCE and UNEP.

Dear Ministers,

The signing of the Treaty may be seen as the end of a process. It is indeed an occasion to celebrate. It is also the beginning of a new challenging road. The setting up of the Dniester Commission and initiation of the work under the Treaty will require considerable efforts.

But you are not alone. UNECE stands ready to support you in this work and I would also like to ask the Parties to the Convention and our international partners to look for ways to support the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the evolving Dniester cooperation.

The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have shown their commitment to improve the management and protection of the Dniester River basin – let us support their continued work.

With these words I would like to congratulate you once more with the signing of the Dniester Treaty. We are honored to having been part of this ceremony.