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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Regional Preparatory Meeting for  
the United Nations Conference  
on Sustainable Development Rio+20

**1-2 December 2011, Geneva**

*Keynote of Mr. Rodion BAJUREANU, Deputy Minister of Environment of the  
Republic of Moldova*

*Agenda Item 7. Panel discussion (Friday, 2 December, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.)*

**1. The institutional framework for sustainable development**

*Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Honourable participants,*

We, in the Republic of Moldova, recognize that it will be difficult to maintain the pace of economic growth without a strong political and institutional reform and commitment at all levels of the society.

In this context, the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2020", developed in the second part of this year as result of inter-sectorial and multi-stakeholders participatory approaches, comes to articulate a vision of cohesive long-term sustainable economic growth, based on a diagnostic study of constraints to growth and with the major goals of sustainable development and poverty reduction. By this Strategy the Government of Moldova intends to reconfirm its commitment to the global sustainable development objectives and fill in the gap in this domain, which was caused by political and economic instability of the country for the last decade.

The Strategy is part of a coordinated policy and budgetary development and planning process, with the involvement of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and line ministries, which, based on short and medium term budgetary planning, provide the financial background for the country's development. For example – the leading role in energy efficiency promotion is

played by the Ministry of Economy, and the promotion of education for sustainable development has to be part of the daily work of the Ministry of Education. Thus, strong coordination and efficient collaboration of inter-governmental bodies is required for this. Also, I have to emphasize here, that this development strategy requires substantial and continuous foreign assistance, which currently is provided to our country, including the Budgetary Support from EU side.

At the same time, I would like to stress, that such areas as health, social protection, and environmental protection are crucial for the country's sustainable development for the period of next ten years. This is confirmed, for example, by the need of development and that is planned for adoption in the first half of next year - the National Environmental Strategy for 2012-2022, which has as major goal the promotion of green economic development as part of sustainable development and poverty reduction objectives of the country. Green jobs, energy and resource intensity, corporate responsibility and gender equity – are indispensable parts of the development and poverty eradication objectives of Moldova.

And this requires a very well coordinated, transparent and efficient inter-sectorial collaboration at all levels, involving governmental agencies, local public authorities, private and business sector and the civil society. Among one of the first steps on this way in Moldova was the recent establishment of the National Working Group for the preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20, in which representatives of all stakeholders are included. We hope that on the base of this national group it will be possible to build a national platform for the promotion of sustainable development and green growth principles in the process of preparation to the UN CSD and beyond. That could be done through an open, multi-participatory, cross-sectorial National Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Development, driven by both governmental and non-governmental actors. The added value of this approach was confirmed at the recent National Launching Event for the preparations for Rio+20, which took place on November 25, and was organized by the Government of Moldova in partnership with UNDP, with the participation of representatives from Parliament, Government, NGOs, experts, diplomatic missions and development partners.

In the coming years of this development process we count very much on the assistance from our development partners, such as EU, IMF, UNDP, UN ECE, OECD, WB, EBRD and from donor countries governments, with whom we established reliable and fruitful collaboration in the field of economic development, infrastructure, social and environmental protection during the last years. Using this opportunity, I would like to express, on behalf of the Government of Moldova, our deep gratitude for this timely and very useful support!

In addition, I would like to mention that in our country were established a number of bodies, created and operated by NGOs, which serve the society in different domains of social and economic development. These are the National Council of NGOs, National Participatory Council and the Consultative Council of environmental NGOs to the Ministry of Environment. The Government already faced the strong civil position and active involvement of these bodies and their members into the development of national and sectorial policies, debates, consultations of

the draft policy documents, laws and Governmental decisions. Due to this, we have timely feedback and valuable contribution from the civil society side in the decision making process, information and awareness on different development issues.

All these activities have a direct link with the Chisinau Declaration of the Fourth Session of the Meeting of Parties of the Aarhus Convention. The MOP took place in Moldova in the summer of this year and its preparatory process, declaration and follow up activities, catalyzed a number of important actions in our country for the strengthening of inter-ministerial collaboration in the field of information and facilitation of public access to environmental information. We express our hope, that the focus of this Declaration on green economy, environmental governance and the Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, draw attention of the decision makers all around the region and not only to these issues, to their link with access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice on environmental matters and facilitate their practical implementation.

Through the Chisinau Declaration, Parties to the Aarhus Convention stressed that public rights are essential to the success of green economy; ignoring the social dimension of a green economy results in plans and programmes that are often unsustainable and self-defeating. Aarhus Convention, in this respect, provides the best model for ensuring public input into plans and programmes related to the environment. The Convention has strongly contributed to putting Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration into practice. Public participation in decision-making is not a self-standing objective, but rather an instrument for achieving the sustainability and well-being of society. The work in implementing the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol are paving the way for a universal application of Principle 10. While recognizing that there are different ways to implement that principle, governments are encouraged to accede to the Convention and its Protocol, which are open for global accession. It is well known, that the Parties to these treaties stand ready to share their experience with all countries that wish to replicate their achievements. As the Host Country of the Aarhus MOP 4, we encourage governments to further refer and apply the stipulations of the Chisinau Declaration in their daily work and future strategic planning and invite governments from other regions, beyond UN ECE, to join this important process.

Having the support from the development partners, enlarging the collaboration between neighbors and within the region and finding the best and efficient ways of implementation of the regional and global objectives through this partnerships – we believe that the countries in the UN ECE region, including the Republic of Moldova, will be able to continue their development way, guided by the European Integration agenda and by all international environmental agreements. The regional cooperation in this field could result in green investments, facilitation of export/import of environmentally friendly goods and services, exchange of information and best practices.

Finally, I would like to mention, that we strongly support all regional and global initiatives in this field and confirm our commitment for their practical implementation in our country and region.

Thank you very much for your attention!

**2. High-level multistakeholder round-table discussions under item 6 on a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.**

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We believe that only due to strong support and promotion from the national governments and commitment from business community, the green economy principles could be promoted. The comprehensive economic, financial, social and environmental policies should be developed in synergy, in order to support the achievement of this goal.

In this context, we consider the Astana Declaration “Save water, grow green!” – one of the fundamental documents for the promotion of Green economy in the region. Its focus on the major development and environmental goals of the countries of the region has the aim to strengthen the efforts, undertaken both at institutional/governmental level and at private sector and civil society levels in this domain. This is also underlined in the thematic UN ECE document, developed for the Astana Conference, on the role of Education for Sustainable Development in shifting to a green economy. We consider ESD as major driving force, together with the political will and interest of private sector, for the establishment of a background and efficient Green economy promotion.

At the national level, in the Republic of Moldova, the start of promotion of the Green Economy was subject of debates at the level of Parliament, including a round table, carried out with the support from UNDP Moldova and OECD as part of National Environmental Policy Dialogue. Inclusion of the promotion of Green Economic Development as the major objective of the National Environmental Strategy for 2012-2022 demonstrates the commitment of our country towards the promotion of this development model in the nearest future.

In addition, I would like to inform you about the opportunities, provided to countries for the transfer of best practices, through the Workshops on Green Economy, organized with the support of UNEP and UNDP. In Moldova we plan such an event for the first part of December, as part of our national preparatory process for Rio+20, and we hope that the participation at this event of business, industry, commerce, agriculture and other sectors representatives and of NGOs will mark a new stage in the promotion of this promising and globally recognized model of development in our country. Due to strong dependence from external energy and resources supply, we did not have too many alternatives in the field of economic development, rather than a sustainable, environmentally friendly and social oriented development.

I would like to benefit from the opportunity, provided by this special round table in order to reconfirm the commitment of our country towards the promotion of Green Economic Development, in harmony with social and environmental goals and objectives. And we will continuously undertake practical measures to be part of this global and regional initiative.

Thank you!