

**Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**  
**Fourth session**  
**Chisinau, 29 June - 1 July 2011**  
**High-Level Segment**

**OPENING Statement of Mr. Mihai MOLDOVANU, Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Moldova**  
**on the occasion**  
**of the opening of the High Level Segment of the Fourth Session of the Meeting of Parties of the Aarhus Convention**  
*01 July 2011, Chisinau, Palace of the Republic, Salle A, 10.00*

Excellency, Executive Secretary,

Honorable Assistance,

Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentleman,

The today's event perfectly feet into the strategic vector of European integration of the Republic of Moldova. By this I mean a democratic, dynamic society, which is respecting the laws and the fundamental human rights. In addition to this, in the context of marking of 20 years anniversary of the independence of our State, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, kindly let me say to all of you "Warm welcome to Moldova!" and to wish you a fruitful activities on the occasion of the works of the Fourth Session of the Meeting of Parties of the Aarhus Convention!

Our State was among the first ones to ratify the convention, on 7 April 1999, by the Decision of the Parliament and, at the same time, was the host of the First Meeting of Signatories and due to this, we are honored that today, at the X-th Anniversary from the entering into force of the Convention, the Meeting of Parties took place especially in Chisinau!

The novelty of this convention is a fundamental one: wile all previous agreements to the Aarhus Convention were setting up obligations, in which parties (usually states and international organizations) have responsibilities one to an other, in that case there is a step forward and there are set up obligations of parties not only between them, but also obligation towards their own citizens. By other words, based on the principles of representativeness and of non-reciprocity, the signature states, and, together wit them, the public authorities and decentralized institutions, unconditionally assume several obligations towards the public. Through the Aarhus Convention, understood in the context of the fundamental human rights and liberties, it is assumed a new kind of responsibility of the public authorities by the recognizing the fundamental role for a healthy environment. This right, recognized by the legislation of the Republic of Moldova, it is correlated with the sustainable development principles, so, that the resources have to be exploited in such a way, that the future generations would be able to benefit from them. Shortly, the Aarhus Convention bring a new fundamental base in the international law by the fact, that for the first time make the link between the human rights and environmental rights.

The Republic of Moldova is respecting its obligations. I recognize, that still there are challenges for the future, which have to be achieved, but now I would like to underline some worthy achievements, among which are:

1) According to the article nr. 41 of the Law nr. 317 of 18 July 2003 on the normative acts of the Government and other authorities of the central and local public administration, the projects in the field have to be subject of the ecological expertise. This expertise is carried out by the Ministry of Environment at the stage of development of the projects of normative acts or at the stage of their coordination in case of development of projects with an impact on environment, developed by other sectorial public administration authorities (for example, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry).

2) in the same order of ideas, even yesterday, was approved the Governmental Decision nr. 471 “On the approval of the National Action Plan for the implementation in the Republic of Moldova of the Convention on access to information, public participation and access to justice on environmental matters (for the period of 2011 – 2015)”. The main objective of the approved Plan is the integral and efficient transposition in the territory of Moldova of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, taking into account the current evaluation of its implementation at the regional and global levels. For the implementation of the proposed measures the Ministry of Environment was nominated responsible, together with other public authorities (ministries, governmental agencies) and it is foreseen to involve as partners the local public administration and environmental NGOs. To the Secretariat of the Convention yearly will be submitted reports on the implementation of the mentioned Plan and of the Convention.

I would like to express the hard belief, that the Fours Session of the Meeting of Parties and the Chisinau Declaration will leave a positive footprint in the continuous promotion of the democratic values and of environmental protection, including in the context of the preparation of the Earth Summit on Sustainable Development „Rio+20”.

Wishing to all of you valuable performances!

Thank you!