

**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
General Segment**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Gheorghe Şalaru,
Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova,
at the opening of the plenary session
Wednesday, 29 June 2011**

Dear Mister Prime-Minister, Excellences,

Honorable assistance,

Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova let me greet you on the occasion of the opening of the IV-th Meeting of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention.

It is a honor and we a proud for the fact, that today, after 12 years after the First Meeting of the Signatories of the Convention, which took place in Chisinau, the Convention came back to the Republic of Moldova.

In this period of time a number of practical measures were undertaken, which contributed to the implementation of the Convention in our country:

- Consolidation of the civil society and accumulation of the force, extension of a number of NGO, so, that today we have more than 100 active organization, which work in different environmental domains, but all together contribute to the information, education, public participation and access to justice;
- Promotion of the values of the Convention at the national and local level, at the workshops, round tables and in publications;
- Strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Environment in this domain, exchange of foreign experience;
- Establishment of the National Environmental Information Centre within the Ministry of Environment, with a modern library of environmental publications, including reports, information on the state of environment;
- Implementation of the projects in the domain, supported by EU, Governments of Denmark, of the Netherlands, of Germany, UNDP, OSCE (involving central and local authorities);
- Approval by the Government of the Republic of Moldova of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Convention (June 2011).

An important factor it is considered the involvement of the judges in the implementation of the provisions of the convention. It is known the fact, that we have experience in our country, when and NGO won a case in the court against a governmental agency, which was not in compliance with the provisions of the convention, which demonstrate, that this pillar, with some constrains, but is working in our country. In this domain training will follow, capacity building and this will allow us to efficiently defend the rights of the citizens in this domain for a cleaner environment.

Implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention it is included in the national development policies for the next 10 years, will be part of the national strategic document in this field. Promotion of the model of green economic growth, sound waste management, protection and rational use of water resources, atmospheric air protection – all this domains will be viewed in the context of information, public participation and creation of a favorable environment for life. All this measures, together, will contribute for the promotion of sustainable development of the country and environmental protection.

Would like to use this occasion for a useful exchange of experience, opinions, solutions, best practices, so, that as the result of the Meeting and adoption of the Chisinau Declaration we will make a step forward for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

We hope that the warm atmosphere and the environment, which we will build all together during the event will facilitate the achievement of the expected results.

Thank you!