

**Opening statement to the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention
by Mr. Andrei Isac, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Center
for Moldova (REC Moldova) on behalf of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and
Central Asia (EECCA) RECs
Bonn, 20 November 2006**

On behalf of the EECCA RECs, I would like to express our gratitude to the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, to UNECE and the Secretariat of the Convention for inviting RECs to attend this Meeting of Parties and involving the RECs Network in the activities of implementation of the convention's provisions.

We consider the Water Convention as an important tool for the environmental cooperation between the countries in the region and a unique coordination mechanism for the protection and management of the water resources.

During the last five years the Regional Environmental Centers in the EECCA region were actively implementing the activities, directed to the implementation of the requirements of the convention. Such field of activities, as Integrated Water Resources Management, Water Quality, Surface Water Quality Standards, Water Ecosystems, considered a priority in most of the countries of the region, were implemented by RECs at a sub-regional or national levels.

Our active involvement and participation at this meeting it is considered by us as an important result of our work, a recognition of its efficiency and future role to be played by RECs in this field. In this process we became reliable partners to the governments, NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders, involved in protection and management of the transboundary water resources.

And in the future the EECCA RECs could take more responsibility for the implementation of the convention in the region, using their neutral, multilateral and cross-sector platform.

The EECCA RECs, by including the Water Convention's activities in their current and future national and regional programmes, will continue to further promote the implementation of the convention in the region and, on their behalf we express our gratitude to international organizations and donor countries for the methodological and financial support they have provided to us.

I hope this will be an efficient meeting and I wish success for all of us in the implementation of the convention. Thank you.