



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Mr. Victor Moraru**

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations  
at the general debate of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

*(New York, 15 March, 2019)*

Mme Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau for your election expressing my delegation's full support for the successful conclusion of the current session of the Commission.

Mme Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,

The priority theme under consideration today, focusing on social protection systems, access to public services and infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, emphasizes once again the reinforcing relationship between women's rights and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

These two dimensions are interdependent and cannot be addressed separately as social protection and gender-sensitive infrastructure can only be achieved within a robust legal and policy framework in which women's rights are fully integrated.

My delegation welcomes the reports by the UN Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women submitted for the current CSW session, including on the priority theme. Many of the recommendations contained in the reports are pertinent to our efforts to improve the situation of women worldwide and to effectively implement the commitments as party to international human rights covenants, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Republic of Moldova is a strong supporter of women's rights and is progressively updating and developing its legislation and social policies with the view to ensure the highest attainable standards for women in all aspects of life.

The national normative framework excludes any discriminatory provisions against women and a ramified institutional mechanism is in place for women's empowerment at the level of central and local authorities.

The Governmental Commission for Equality between Women and Men is the principal national body responsible for ensuring the effective coordination and implementation of gender policies and legislation.

Also, gender units have been set up within central and local public authorities having the role of engaging with communities at grass-roots level, advancing proposals to improve the implementation of laws and periodically reporting thereupon.

In the recent years, the Government of the Republic of Moldova took a number of effective measures aimed at reducing the discrepancies between women and men in the social sphere.

One such example is the reform of the pension system establishing the same mandatory retiring age for women and men which goes in line with the recommendations by the Commission on the Discrimination against Women.

At the same time, the pay gap and earning power still represents a challenge and impacts the overall revenues for women. According to the most recent statistical data, in 2017 men in Moldova still earned about 13% more than women and although the average salary per country more than doubled in the last 10 years, so did the inequality in pay among genders, women being the ones who earn less.

An explanation of this phenomenon is that the proportion of women in top positions remains lower and difficulties persist in the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work, especially in the private sector. That, of course, has an impact on pension revenues whereby women's pension is about 19% lower than men's.

However, in line with the provisions of the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action, a package of measures promoted recently by the Government is set to overturn this trend. Primarily, focusing on inclusive economic growth, improving the social and physical infrastructure, access to public services and health care, as well updating the education for the evolving jobs market are all implemented with a gender perspective in mind.

Mme Chairperson,

Following the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a new provision for paternity leave was introduced in the national legislation, thus promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men and disbanding the commonly held stereotype of women caretaking obligations.

These provisions also resonate with last years' agreed conclusions of CSW regarding the redistribution of the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed traditionally by women.

In the sphere of education, apart from ensuring universal access to quality education, the promotion of women in science is one of our key priorities. In 2015, a new national programme called "GirlsGotIt" was launched comprising a set of measures to support young women to study in the so called "STEM" area, namely in science, technology, engineering and math. This support is further materialized by the enrollment of women who have earned the necessary preparation in the so-called "IT clubs" established throughout the country, therefore supporting other women and girls to embrace a profession in which women have been traditionally less represented.

We note with satisfaction that since 2016, the ratio of women to men labor force participation rate is almost equal which is associated with the fact that policies supporting women's participation on the job market and promoting equal opportunities for all have an overall positive impact.

In the healthcare sector, measures are taken to increase the access of women, in particular from rural areas, to medical services as data show existing disparities between urban and rural women. Just recently, in August last year, a new programme called "A Doctor for you" was launched in order to enhance the access of rural population, especially the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups, to specialized health services.

In conclusion, Mme Chairperson, while challenges remain and there are still areas in which women are disadvantaged and need additional interventions through gender-sensitive policies and investments, the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women is unwavering.

We will continue to promote and pursue the scope of the Beijing Declaration and the Programme of Action as well as the gender-related goals and targets of the 2030 Development Agenda and other outcomes of major UN conferences and summits.

I thank you for your attention.