

DCAF PROJECT
STRENGTHENING
SECURITY SECTOR
GOVERNANCE IN
MOLDOVA
2023-2025
Financed by Sweden

PROJECT LAUNCHING CONFERENCE REPORT



9-10 March 2023
Chisinau, Moldova

Launch Event Report

Background

On the 9 and 10 March 2023, DCAF has officially launched its project “Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova” at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Chisinau.



The three years project (2023-2025) is funded by Sweden, and aims to support nationally owned, inclusive, and participatory modernisation processes based on EU standards and good practices. It is built on three main areas of intervention:

1. Enhancing national security governance.
2. Supporting strategic management capacity in the law enforcement system.
3. Building public trust.



The event gathered over 70 participants from the parliament, the government, law enforcement agencies, the civil society, and the international community, with attendance from high-level representatives, including the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Chairman of the parliamentary committee on National Security, Defence and Public Order, or the Head of the Supreme Security Council's Service.



The conference informed participants about the objectives and the modalities of the new DCAF project in Moldova, and provided a platform for exchange of information on the current state of security sector reform and governance in the country. The participants were invited to discuss issues related to strategic planning in national security and home affairs, the perceptions about security threats and priorities, public expectations and institutional requirements raised by the European Union accession process.



Day 1: Thursday, 9th March 2023

CONFERENCE OPENING

Mr. Paulo Costa, DCAF's project team leader, kicked off the conference with introductory remarks and offered the floor to the keynote speakers.



The Chairman of the National Security Committee of the Parliament, Mr. Lilian Carp, started the interventions, pointing out that the Parliament's collaboration with DCAF marks an important step in the European integration efforts of the country. The body of deputies in the Parliament puts an emphasis on the value of expertise from European countries in promoting laws and bringing legislative changes, up to EU integration standards. In the current context, the Parliament is working on updating important laws regarding the security sector, and is eager to include the opinions and inputs of organizations such as DCAF. The first objective of the project is focused on enhancing the legislative and executive capacity of the Parliament and the Supreme Security Council to contribute to security policy design, legislative development and meaningful oversight.



Mrs. Ana Revenco, Moldova's Minister of Internal Affairs, underlined the importance of the DCAF project in Moldova, where the focus on policies, reform solutions, integrity, and on capacity building will contribute to strengthen the strategic and operational management capacities in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Police Inspectorate. The long-standing cooperation between the Ministry and DCAF goes back to several years, and in the framework of the strategy for the Development of Home Affairs, the project will build on the existing efforts to effectively implement the Ministry's institutional and policy reform processes. The Minister further emphasized on the important of public involvement and contribution in the area of security and rule of law, highlighting one of the project's focus on improving the institutions' public communication.



Mrs. Katarina Fried, Ambassador of Sweden to Moldova, spoke next. Thanking the participants for their presence, the ambassador affirmed Sweden's support to Moldova's reform agenda and its resolution to join the European Union, in the overwhelming times characterised by the ongoing war in Moldova's neighbouring countries. DCAF's project is aligned with its donor's strategic objectives, and is designed with Sweden's regional strategy in mind, including contribution to improving democratic governance and conditions for accountability and transparency, to create a peaceful and inclusive society.



Mr. Janis Mažeiks, Head of the European Union delegation to Moldova, followed up on Mrs. Fried's intervention, reiterating the European Union's support to the Republic of Moldova in its integration process, including the adjustment efforts of the country in democratic governance of the security sector.



Finally, DCAF Director, Mrs. Nathalie Chuard, concluded the introductory speeches with her conference opening remarks, while highlighting the official opening of the new DCAF office in Chisinau. This personifies the beginning of the new multi-year engagement of DCAF in Moldova, during which the project will partner up with the Parliament, the Supreme Security Council (SSC), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and the

General Police Inspectorate (GPI), and civil society organisations.

The cooperation with these institutions was subsequently officialised during the conference opening – Memorandums of Understandings were signed, between DCAF and the National Security Committee, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA). Since the conference, a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed with the Supreme Security Council Secretariat.



PANEL 1

Security sector governance in Moldova - current achievements, remaining challenges, and future priorities

Moderated by Mrs. Teodora Fuior, DCAF Key Lead Advisor.

The first plenary panel of the conference aimed to cover the general security sector governance situation in Moldova, from the achievements to the challenges and priorities. DCAF's moderator Mrs. Teodora Fuior presented in more details the objectives and structure of the project on "strengthening security sector governance in Moldova". She presented the three main pillars of the project and the expectations from the project activities, focusing on the importance of cooperation and the inclusion of national expertise in this process.

The session saw the intervention of several panellists from national governance bodies and civil society, giving a current picture of security sector governance in Moldova.

Mr. Oazu Nantoi, member of the parliamentary committee on National Security, Defence and Public Order, referred in his intervention to the society's perception of security, the historical neutrality status of the country, a concept today considered by many experts as outdated, and social cohesion.



Mr. Stefan Tibuleac, head of the Supreme Security Council's Service, presented the 2023 objectives of the service, mentioning the three principles on which the service bases its activity: citizen safety, predictability of the security policy, and adaptability to the environment. One of the priorities for the SSC service will be the work being done on the development of the new National Security Strategy and on the professionalization of the cadres.



Mrs. Natalia Albu, executive director of the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA), stated that the signing of the project agreement with civil society represents the reality that governance of the security sector in a democratic state is difficult to achieve without oversight and cooperation with civil society. She referred to conjoint activities that can be realised with DCAF in the context of the project.



PANEL 2A

Implementation of the Home Affairs Strategy: ways forward, coping with challenges, and increasing support and assistance

Moderated by Mrs. Ina Bogatii, Head of the Coordination of External Assistance and Project Management Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of the Republic of Moldova.

In the afternoon, the sessions split up into two groups, one focused on the strategy for the Development of Home Affairs, and one focused on the national security governance system.

Moderating the first session, Mrs. Ina Bogatii, from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, observed that the project could serve as a platform for strengthening security sector in Moldova, emphasising that the project can represent an umbrella of coordination among all the involved stakeholders, from the donor community to the national partners. For this to happen, it is vital to identify fund absorption capacities and facilitate the project implementation within the MIA. She pointed out that the Strategy for Home Affairs is a new strategy for Moldova and its dedicated sectorial programs offer a flexibility in terms of partnership.



Surfing on the improved Moldovan score in the last Corruption Perceptions Index, the national experts of the MIA shall ensure an integrated approach to get full advantage of the project implementation, highlighting the matrix of development as an important tool for donor assistance in the institution. In particular, the support to train-of-trainers and to certifications in different areas by the project will be welcomed. Mrs. Bogatii finally underlined that the role of civil society organisations remains a priority and hopes that the project support to the MIA will contribute to more talks, based on current expectations, before handing over to the interventions of several panellists.

Mrs. Natalia Albu, executive director of the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA) intervened, emphasising that there is a need for a mapping of the institutional needs, especially as security sector governance is a rather new process

for Moldova. Agreeing with Mrs. Bogatii, she reiterated that security sector governance should involve civil society, and that the National Security Strategy under development should be as clear as possible for the Moldova citizens. She especially underlined the lack of proper transparency with civil society organisations and the use of disinformation.



In the next intervention, Mr. Victor Munteanu, from the Institute for Public Policy, critically pointed out that the launch of the project could represent a risk for DCAF and for the Swedish Embassy. Mr. Munteanu warned of the irony of achieving the project outcomes in an environment of “perma crisis” or “perma war”, representing a cruel reality. He further suggested that the project shall take into consideration existing challenges caused by overlapping crises (i.e., in Georgia) and to ensure constant risks analysis and proper adaptation. Thus, the dialogue with civil society on situations analysis would be important. The main risks he emphasized on are the proximity to the Transnistria region and the constant challenges coming from the regional context. He suggested that the project could ensure coordination in foreign assistance and bring together all relevant stakeholders at the same table.

On a more operational note, Mr. Munteanu also highlighted a need for a pragmatic analysis of human resources in Moldovan institutions, and for the development of a policy framework on ways to retain people within the systems. He finally mentioned some issues that he considers most stringent in security agencies, and which he suggests could be raised by the project for further discussions. These include the role of the

Carabinieri troops, the Police Academy or the Joint Law Enforcement Training Centre, the transparency in police activities, clarification in the evaluation and career promotion of the staff.



Following up on this intervention, several participants gave further input.

Mr. Holger Aermann, Liaison Officer of the German Federal Police in the Republic of Moldova, gave his perspective on the dynamics for the donor community in Moldova, underlining the shift in the foreign assistance in terms of long-term development.

Mr. Vadim Ardeleanu, Head of the Project Management Department in the General Police Inspectorate (GPI), presented their main priorities, from strengthening the coordination with other key actors, developing professional abilities of their staff, to improving the communication between the GPI and the public.

Mr. Eugeniu Sevciuc, Deputy Head of the Internal Protection and Anti-Corruption Service (SPIA) of the MIA, presented an analysis on strengthening SPIA capacities, elaborated in collaboration with DCAF and other partners. He also reiterated the crucial role of civil society organisations in all aspects of integrity, and underlined some objectives in the cooperation with the project, including an train-of-trainers activity.

Mr. Viorel Albu, from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Moldova, noted that the new project is welcomed and that the SSGM pillars are well connected among them and other projects in Moldova. He underlined that the MIA role in the security system is crucial, representing a key institution, as there is a lack of capacities in defense in Moldova. Mr. Albu brought to attention several UNDP ongoing projects and one of the main concerns regarding the MIA – the high turnover of staff.

Mrs. Cristina Schimbov, from the Women's Police Association, presented some of the initiatives proposed by the organisation, which could be implemented as part of gender mainstreaming and as part of the project objectives.

Mrs. Elena Tautu, from the General Police Inspectorate (GPI), reiterated that the outbreak of the war in Ukraine increased the need for ad-hoc trainings, which should be taken into account in the project implementation.



PANEL 2B

The role of the Parliament and the Supreme Security Council in shaping the strategic and normative foundations of the national security governance system

Moderated by Mrs. Sanda Sandu, Co-founder of the Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives (PISA).

Mrs. Sanda Sandu introduced the panel topic, stating the apart from the external military threat, the Republic of Moldova is facing a wide range of risks. Political and territorial separatism, ethnic, linguistic and cultural division/tension, economic challenges, corruption, loopholes in the judicial system, are all capable of generating important national security effects.

“In the current context of technologization and interdependence, these threats and risks can manifest themselves separately or cumulatively, they can quickly escalate from one category of risk to another, creating conditions that exceed the national capacity for anticipation and reaction.

Today, it is important to ensure the governance of the security sector, by strengthening the role of the Parliament and civil society organisations in shaping the strategic and normative foundations.”



Several panellists contributed to the session.

Mr. Octavian Cartera, Advisor to the Supreme Security Council Service, spoke about the National Security Strategy in force, and the one that is in the process of elaboration. Past strategies didn't include feasible mechanisms for monitoring and implementation, but in the coming strategy, these mechanisms will need to be provided. Mr. Cartera referred to the Supreme Security Council's main objectives for this year, and apart from the finalisation of the National Security Strategy, they include the elaboration of a methodology of interaction between the Council and its Secretariat – aiming to streamline the activity.



Commenting on the panellist's remarks, Mr. Ion Coropcean argued on the necessity of consolidating the Supreme Security Council's coordination role.

Mr. Vadim Enicov, National SSR Advisor of the DCAF Chisinau office, observed that the sub-committee's failure to fulfil its duties for the supervision of the activity of the Intelligence Service does not justify the inactivity of the Basic Commission. It should exercise all the powers of the legislative power, including the legislative function, the budgetary function, and the supervisory function.



Mr. Andrei Curararu, Representative of the Watchdog Community, added that the technical aspects should not impede the political ones: the elaboration of strategies must follow the scope of the Security Council.

PANEL 3A

Integrity building as one of the conditionalities of European Union accession

Moderated by Mr. Paulo Costa, Principal Programme Manager and Senior SSR Advisor, DCAF.

Kicking off the session, Mr. Paulo Costa addressed the audience, by asking what integrity would represent for them, what their main values are and what should a holistic approach look like, inviting the participants to take the floor and to share their views and opinion. Explaining the general rules on integrity, Mr. Costa underlined the need to focus on individuals, rules and procedures. He presented how DCAF has implemented previous initiatives based on the targeted methodology with SPIA, and highlighted that one of the project's activity is to focus on the analysis of integrity training management.

Following the introduction, several panellists took the floor.

Mrs. Liudmila Bragarenco, from the General Police Inspectorate (GPI), informed the audience that the main current priority within the police is to prevent corruption and inappropriate behaviour. She presented the background on the creation of the anti-corruption unit in the GPI, their basic activities, and hoped that the project will further support the creation of a facilitators and trainers' network.



Mrs. Adriana Cazacu, from the National Anticorruption Centre (NAC), focused on two notions of integrity – institutional and professional. She presented the NAC's evaluation measures on how national authorities ensure the proper level of the integrity. Mrs. Cazacu highlighted that a common problem identified is the poor implementation of the relevant policies at the level of MIA sub-divisions, the level of fraud and corruption, notably at the critical management level. However, there are also good examples where state authorities take this phenomenon seriously, citing as example the last amendments made to the law on the regime of foreigners.



Mr. Andrei Botnariuc, from Internal Protection and Anti-Corruption Service (SPIA), then raised the question of the evaluation of the institutional integrity and of risks, mentioning the importance to have common trainings instruments. He echoed the need to have complementarity to the training and give personal motivations of the employees.



Mrs. Natalia Dubneac-Chioru finally warned against the risk of having too many methodologies and instruments on the risk analysis/management.



PANEL 3B

How to build social cohesion - cross government coordination, strategic communication, and civil society support

Moderated by Mrs. Elena Marzac, Co-founder of the Platform for Security and Defence Initiative (PISA).

Introducing the panel's topic, Mrs. Elena Marzac listed the elements of the hybrid war which involves the Republic of Moldova, which put considerable pressure on national security and defence, on self-governance, and which present impediments to the achievement of national interests. The reform process of the security sector needs the involvement of all political actors, government institutions, civil society, national experts, but also the development partners of the country, to assist the national authorities with the sharing of good practices, expertise, and assistance through necessary technical materials. Responsible and constructive collaboration between the government and the associative sector, the community of independent experts and think tanks is imperative to overcome the current situation that creates confusion and uncertainty in the promotion of security topics. Establishing a strategic communication process at the national level is an effective long-term measure in countering these threats, as well as in increasing resilience and strengthening societal cohesion.

Societal cohesion is manifested by the degree of legitimacy and trust of citizens in democratic institutions and processes, which, unfortunately, is at a low level in Moldova. It is precisely why it is essential that governments include civil society as a full partner in the democratization of security sector governance, to strengthen societal cohesion.



Mr. Octavian Cartera echoed the sentiment of Mrs. Marzac, agreeing that the lack of social cohesion represents a vulnerability of whole system of security. He further presented the plans of the Secretariat of the Supreme Security Council to consolidate its activity and to improve the governance of the security sector.



Mr. Mihai Mogaldea puts an emphasis on the deficient communication among the authorities, remarking on the small number of public consultations on the draft decisions and laws examined. He requested to give greater attention to the involvement of civil society.

Mr. Victor Munteanu spoke about the role of civil society in the communication with the authorities and opined that it should not be exaggerated. According to him, society should carefully follow the government's decisions and signal slippages, rather fulfilling the functions of a watch dog.



Mr. Oazu Nantoi further commented on the insufficient communication of government agencies with the society and the insufficient understanding of the role of governance among the public. As such, trust is a crucial element for social cohesion.

Reflecting on the trust of society on governance, Mr. Vadim Enicov opined that governance must offer a clear vision of the changes to come and offer confidence in the actions taken.

DAY 2: Friday, 10th March 2023

PANEL 4

Moldova's path towards European Union accession/ Challenges and requirements of the accession process

Moderated by Mr. Petru Turcan, Head of the DCAF Field Office in Chisinau.

Introducing the panel, Mr. Petru Turcan referred to the achievements of Moldova in its European integration path and the challenges ahead. He stressed that the project comes at the right time to support the Moldovan authorities in fulfilling requirements for EU integration, and fits perfectly with the EU-Moldova agenda and the Swedish presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2023. Recalling the progress made by the country since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, and how it influenced the decision-makers in Moldova, he reminded the participants that it also created new opportunities to enhance the existing partnership with the EU and the international community. Mr. Turcan underlined the importance for the Moldova of the EU security hub for the country's internal security and border management, and the importance of support from Europol and Frontex, to deal with the first wave of consequences from the war.

Several panellists then contributed to the session.

Mr. Vladimir Cuc, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gave his statement on the actual efforts of Moldova in European integration, in the context of the war in Ukraine, and the candidate status of Moldova for joining the EU. Mr. Cuc underlined the importance of the engagement of Moldova in combating organised crimes, as well as tackling the 9 recommendations of the European Commission formulated for granting the candidate status for EU accession. He pointed out that as part of the EU integration effort of the country, the focus should also be on maintaining peace and security in Moldova and the recovery and support of the economy. Mr. Cuc reiterated the message stated on the 8 March by the State Secretaries of Germany and France, that the EU enlargement process is seen as a process in maintaining European security. Mr. Cuc finally presented an update on a possible Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission.

Mr. Gheorghe Donca, from the Policy Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, referred to the Strategy for the development of internal affairs. Working groups have been established for the implementation of the Strategy within the Ministry. He mentioned that the possibility of mentorship and coaching from the EU military staff (EUMS)

would be helpful for the MIA needs for EU integration.

Mrs. Sophie Dagand, representative of the European Delegation in Moldova, then greeted the participants and gave her statement. She brought to attention the long-standing cooperation of the delegation with the MIA and the EU support given so far in the Ministry's modernization process, citing examples such as budget support programs on the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) and on Police Reform. She reiterated that through this dialogue, all processes are led by the Moldovan authorities, and the EU is committed in further exploring this partnership and addressing the citizens' needs for security.

Mr. Mihai Mogaldea, representative of the Institute for European Policy and Reform, presented the Institute's assessment on Moldova's fulfilment of European integration engagements, underlying an alternative evaluation of EU commitments. He reminded participants of the importance of the civil society support and advocacy in the European integration process, and the need to take into consideration the political calendar, both of Moldova and of the EU.

Mrs. Elena Mirzac, co-founder of the Platform for Security and Defence Initiative (PISA) finally warned that Moldova is now in the midst of a hybrid war and there is a need for new approaches in security sector reforms.

PANEL 5

Conclusions and way ahead

Moderated by Mr. Paulo Costa, Principal Programme Manager and Senior SSR Advisor at DCAF.

In the last session of the launching conference, the project team lead Mr. Paulo Costa came back on the discussions and proposed a summary of the afternoon panels running in parallel, through a recapitulation of the conclusions.

Mrs. Ina Bogatii spoke on behalf of the panel 2A, and raised the projects implemented in Moldova and the capacity of absorption. The conclusion drawn is that in order to achieve the results, there is a need for local ownership and for the consolidation of the national efforts.

Mrs. Sanda Sandu presented the results of the panel 2B discussions, and concluded that there is a need for strengthening security sector governance in Moldova, with the participation of all components, from state authorities to civil society organisations.

Mr. Paulo Costa related the panel 3A's discussion on a holistic approach to integrity. Working on integrity is not only about rules and legislations, but also about professionals and behaviour. The police are a mirror of society, and as such must respond to and reflect society's expectations.

Mrs. Elena Marzac reported on the discussions in panel 3B, mentioning social cohesion and communication with state authorities, and highlighting the need to have discussions with the society, on all sensible topics regarding the European Union, the country's relation with NATO, or the status of neutrality.

To close the conference, a few participants gave a short speech of thanks to the room.

Mr. Oazu Nantoi recognised the problem regarding the Parliament on the question of transparency and the need for the consolidation of critical thinking of parliamentarians and the society.

Mr. Stefan Tibuleac noted the requests to the state authorities and assured that efforts will be made to address the observed weaknesses, citing that national security is about the valour of a common response to threats and the risks towards society.

Mrs. Natalia Albu thanked for the opportunity for civil society organisations to participate in the project, and enjoyed the large participation and opened discussions on the important topics.

Mr. Petru Turcan spoke about the expectations of the project and hopefully the positive changes it will bring to the activity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the police, as well as the security sector in general.

Mrs. Teodora Fuior mentioned that the project team will carefully follow the local involvement in carrying out the activities, ensure solid training support and building a high potential of national capacities, while proposing solutions from international practice.

Mr. Vadim Enicov referred to the complexity of the security sector and the importance of respecting the principles of good governance, such as legality and respect for human rights.

Finally, Mr. Paulo Costa thanked the participants for their contributions and expressed his pleasure to declare the project officially launched.



Annex 1

List of participants

1. Chuard Nathalie, DCAF Director, Ambassador
2. Revenco Ana, Minister of Internal Affairs
3. Carp Lilian, Chairman of National Security Committee, Parliament
4. Fried Katarina, Swedish Ambassador
5. Janis Mazeiks, EU Ambassador to Moldova
6. Aermann Holger, German Embassy
7. Albu Natalia, PISA, Platform for Initiative in Security and Defence
8. Albu Viorel, UNDP
9. Ardeleanu Vadim, General Police Inspectorate
10. Barbarosie Arcadie, Institute for Public Policy
11. Balan Gheorghe, Ministry of Defence
12. Beltrani Guido, Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova
13. Benzari Julieta Grigorita, MoIA
14. Bobeica Gheorghe, Supreme Security Council Service, MoD
15. Bogatii Ina, MoIA, CEAPMD
16. Botnariuc Andrei, MoIA, SPIA
17. Botnaru Petru, Terra 1530 NGO
18. Bugai Veaceslav, UNDP
19. Bragarenco Liudmila, GPI
20. Brinzari Liuba, UN Women
21. Cartera Octavian, Supreme Security Council Service
22. Carabanov Mariana, Women's Police Association
23. Cazacu Adriana, National Anticorruption Centre
24. Culeac Petru, Soros Foundation Moldova
25. Curararu Andrei, WatchDog.md Community
26. Cojocari Vadim, Supreme Security Council Service
27. Coropcean Ion, Agency for Science MoD
28. Cracan Evgenii, GPI
29. Djandjgava Natalia, Crisis Management Initiative
30. Dubbeac Natalia, GPI
31. Duca Mihaela, Promo Lex
32. Efremov Ana, GPI
33. Fondos Igor, Secretariat of National Security Committee, Parliament
34. Florea Livia, PISA
35. Hertoffer Veronica, MIA
36. Jorzy Karaski, Polish Embassy
37. Kobzdej Tomasz, Polish Embassy
38. Levinte Igor, MIA
39. Marzac Elena, PISA
40. Marinuta Vitalie, Armed Force Association, NGO
41. Malii Sergiu, GPI
42. Mogaldea Mihai, Institute for European Policies and Reform (IPRE)
43. Munteanu Victor, Institute for Public Policy
44. Nantoi Oazu, Member of the National Security Committee, Parliament
45. Negru Ana, PISA
46. Niciporenco Ecaterina, State University of Moldova
47. Nicula Liudmila, GPI

48. Orest Cromell, Swedish Embassy
49. Panfil Nicolae, Promo Lex
50. Pascal Cristina, National Anticorruption Centre
51. Roch Vesna, Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova
52. Rusu Dorina, MIA
53. Samarschi Elena, Women's Police Association
54. Sanda Sandu, PISA
55. Scaletcaia Marina, MIA
56. Schimbov Cristina, Women's Police Association
57. Scutelnic Oxana, Women's Police Association
58. Sevcuic Eugeniu, MIA, SPIA
59. Senic Ecaterina, MIA
60. Sirbu Ivan, GPI
61. Spinu Natalia, European Institute for Political Studies
62. Stoian Vitalie, Armed Force Association, NGO
63. Tautu Elena, GPI
64. Tabirta Ion, CID NATO
65. Tibuleac Stefan, Supreme Security Council, Head of Service
66. Turcanu Sergiu, GPI
67. Varnic Dragos, MIA
68. Young Stephen, Crisis Management Initiative



Annex 2

Opening Remarks by Nathalie Chuard, DCAF Director, Ambassador

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome you on behalf of DCAF, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance.

First of all, I want to say that I am very glad to announce the official opening of the DCAF Office in Chisinau. This marks the beginning of a new multi-year engagement of our organisation in support of Moldova – in particular the Moldovan government's strategic efforts to modernise institutions, strengthen governance processes, and continue its *rapprochement* with the European Union.

For DCAF, this is not a new partnership. In 2002, only two years after our creation, Moldova became a member of DCAF's Foundation Council; the Council being our main governing body which is responsible for our strategic direction.

For those of you who do not know DCAF – or don't know DCAF well,
let me just say a few words:

- DCAF is a foundation established in Switzerland. Our mandate is to support states and societies in ensuring that their security sectors are democratically governed, overseen and held accountable for providing security to the people and for the people.
- DCAF's Foundation Council includes 57 members representing 54 countries.
- DCAF employs more than 220 specialists from over 40 countries. We work in more than 70 countries providing policy advice and capacity building.

As mentioned, the opening of our office in Moldova is not a starting point, but the **continuation of a rich partnership** initiated more than two decades ago. This partnership today enters **a new stage**. Our presence in Chisinau is the illustration of our commitment and will contribute to an even denser dialogue with authorities and the civil society.

On a personal note, I joined DCAF one week ago, and I feel privileged to be here today with all of you. Without any hesitation, I can also say that having my first trip in Moldova, only a few days after entering my new role, is a testimony not only to the engagement of DCAF and our team but also to our conviction that we can support and contribute to this momentum for security sector governance.

Moldova is at an important juncture in its **history**. It is now an EU candidate country and has embarked on a path of modernisation of its normative frameworks and institutions. Achieving the European Union membership will require significant structural reforms, including when it comes to the security sector. The country is also directly affected in so many ways by Russia's unlawful aggression on Ukraine; and this exacerbates existing structural challenges in unpredictable ways.

We have seen an **extraordinary mobilization of resources and determination** to deal with the overlapping crises the country had to face in the last year. We have also seen the determination of Moldova's leadership to **transform challenges in opportunities**. The "small country with a big heart" has **quickly become a security contributor** in the region. This has been met with respect and appreciation from neighbours and partners.

But **the path towards a prosperity within the European family is not an easy or short one**. We know how many must be overcome, but also how much effort must go towards mitigating various threats to the stability of the country - on a daily basis.

Our team and our programme are here to support **Moldova**. My colleagues will later provide you with more details about our work and objectives.

It is however important for me to emphasise that **local ownership** is crucial. We also believe that institutional change and modernisation require a **comprehensive dialogue**, involving political stakeholders and civil society, so to ensure a change that is well guided and sustainable.

Our programme therefore aims at working with a **wide array of institutions**, facilitating the exchange between legislative and executive institutions, civil society, and citizens, building cross-societal partnerships and promoting trust.

Today, we will also **sign Memoranda of Understanding with some of the main partner institutions**. This formalization of our partnerships means that we are fully engaged to further develop our cooperation and ensure that our work is aligned with local needs and priorities.

We are **proud to be considered a trusted partner in Moldova** and committed to do our best to accompany you in building up a security governance system; so that it can deliver effective services to the people.

Let me here say a few words on International Women Day and gender equality. Yesterday, I was already in Chisinau, and I think that this day is an occasion for all of us to remind ourselves that - in all our countries -, security sectors need to better reflect the gender structure of the society they serve, and provide security equally to all, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

In closing, I would like to thank Sweden for the trust you have put in our program. Thank you for your steadfast cooperation, strategic guidance and support during the conceptualization and this initial phase of our Programme. We are looking forward to our continued partnership.

Let me also thank DCAF team, in Chisinau and Geneva, for putting this conference together. This is an important conversation, and I am really glad that all of you are joining. I wish you a fruitful discussion.

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Annex 3

Speech of Ana Revenco, Minister of Internal Affairs of Moldova

Your Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

I would like to begin by emphasizing not just the long-lasting relations between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and DCAF, but also the critical moments when we have joint efforts.

I can easily identify a pattern here: whenever we were in need for strategic guidance and attention to detail, we looked towards DCAF. Your answer was always positive, and your expertise was relevant with scalable solutions.

In the beginning of my mandate as a minister, we collaborated on institutional and policy reforms. We started that stage of our cooperation during peace times. Now, in a period with overlapping crises, with threats and actual ever-increasing manifestations of hybrid war, DCAF is not just continuing its assistance, but it strengthens it by opening an official office in Chisinau and by signing the Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry.

These are all bold and strong messages that Moldova is not alone in its efforts to sustain and enhance the democratic values and principles which guarantee the fundamental rights for all citizens.

With the valuable assistance of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, we are starting the implementation of the project implementation of the project “Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Moldova”.

It is a project prepared during current challenging times and it will build up on the existing strategic framework for the Development of Home Affairs.

We have jointly created an innovative approach where we focus on policies, reform solutions, integrity, and also on capacity building. Moreover, one of the 3 main outcomes of the project is centred around the involvement of the public in its role as contributor and partner to the area of security and rule of law.

For all of us, the involvement of the public is paramount in the current security landscape shaped by hybrid threats and incident. These are manifestations often missed by the untrained eyes and we owe to our citizens to better inform them and to invite them in partnerships. Otherwise, the destabilization actions will find fertile ground to develop and change the democratic course of Moldova. We already see the social unrests in Georgia where, the exact low-profile actions, were destined to harm freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law, and damage peace and stability.

Ladies and gentlemen, the partnership with DCAF will go beyond the current project. Together we will take on board the practices and lessons learned in over one year of overlapping crisis response and raise awareness on the security paradigm shift which should shape the new security strategies in Europe.

Thank you very much for all your support!

Annex 4

Speech of Katarina Fried, Ambassador of Sweden to Moldova

Chairman Carp, Madame Minister, Revenco, Ambassador Mazeiks, Madame Chuard,

Dear colleagues and friends!

Doamnelor si domnilor,

Mulțumim and thank you for joining us today for this launching event, as well as, for your openness and readiness to partner in achieving the expectations and objectives, that we hope to achieve together in this project with DCAF the coming years.

Last year we all witnessed a tremendous worsening of human security in the middle of Europe, including defiance of international law and peace guarantees as well as violations of territorial integrity of sovereign countries. The horrible, unjustifiable, and unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine reaffirmed the need for us all to stand together and stand up for a democratic world order, human rights and humanitarian values.

The Republic of Moldova, being at the front line of these sad events, managed courageously to face an unprecedented migration crisis and to generate a security cord, mitigating, simultaneously, many national and regional risks and issues. This was made possible through an impressive teamwork and a professional institutional approach but also by individual contributions by Moldovan citizens. These efforts have been and continue to be highly appreciated and applauded far beyond the borders of Moldova.

In these overwhelming times, Sweden fully supports Moldova's reform agenda and its decision to join the European Union. We have a fruitful bilateral dialogue and cooperation with state institutions, civil society, local public administration, local initiative groups to advance the changes relevant for a democratic and resilient society. One of the main purposes of the Swedish regional strategy covering Moldova, is to contribute to human rights, democracy, rule of law and gender equality by improving democratic governance and conditions for accountability and transparency and create a peaceful and inclusive society.

Our support via DCAF's project comes in line with these objectives and is designed to assist the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the Ministry of Interior, the General Police Inspectorate, and other relevant stakeholders in fostering institutional and strategic capacities to contribute to good governance in the security sector.

Now more than ever, there is a need to put together available knowledge and skills, expertise, and abilities, to create a joint vision of a reformed national security order; to gather the state and people together to redefine security needs and solutions; as well as to build broad partnerships contributing to public trust and awareness of needed security sector reforms. Sweden is very committed to support these efforts and hope that this project will contribute to both finding and implementing solutions.

We warmly welcome DCAF in Moldova and were very happy to see, with Swedish support, the opening of a local office here yesterday. We encourage all our European colleagues and others to consider teaming up with and contributing to DCAF's efforts to support Moldova's reform ambitions and EU integration process.

Thank you! Multumesc!