



Statement by Ms. Carolina Popovici, Head, United Nations and Specialized Agencies Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, at the Regional Review Conference of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, Geneva, 8 July 2014

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is for the first time that the Republic of Moldova takes this opportunity to participate and address the parties to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development in the framework of the Regional Review Conference. This gathering today takes place at a critical time for the international community, especially for our region when, on one hand, an intense intergovernmental dialogue to shape the UN post-2015 development agenda takes place, and on the other, armed violence continues to jeopardize and disrupt any development effort.

There is no doubt that besides climate change, poverty and economic challenges that affect the wellbeing of humanity, armed violence represents a constant threat which defies any norm of democracy, human rights and even the fundamental right to life. No effort should be spared in order to raise awareness at international level with the view to reduce and prevent its menace.

As a country which does not produce arms, the Republic of Moldova is firmly anchored on this path. The Government has taken a number of concrete actions in order to contain and prevent the spread, use and misuse of small arms and light weapons at national level. Therefore, during the last several years, more than 10 thousand arms have been destroyed by melting or have been recalled from usage.

These kinds of measures are meant to enhance transparency on arms management, but also to ensure the physical security of the population, the proper supervision of arms stocks and conventional ammunitions in accordance with the best international practices and commitments.

Furthermore, our legislative framework has also been improved. About two years ago, a new law on civilian rifles regime has been adopted, which imposes a more rigorous domestic arms control. In addition to the enforcement of normative and technical regulations, it is expected that this law will enable the development of a new collective attitude towards the use, or more exactly, the non use of arms, which ultimately is one of the key indicators of a stable, prosperous and democratic society.

The Republic of Moldova stands for strengthening of the international cooperation in advancing activities of effective arms management and destruction. It is through joint efforts that the control, reduction and the prevention of misuse of small arms and light weapons can be achieved.

Certainly, the political factor plays an important role in preserving stability and security in the region. For this reason, all the incentives for development – human rights, rule of law, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states must be respected since they go hand in hand and are directly linked to the prevention of violence, especially armed violence.

In concluding, Mr. Chairman, we would like to reaffirm once again that human development can only be achieved in conditions of peace, respect of human rights and sovereignty of states. It is essential to discourage and counteract all elements that have the potential to generate armed violence such as inequalities, discrimination, social, cultural, political or religious constraints.

I thank you.