



**Statement by the Republic of Moldova
during the Working Group
on the matter of Maintenance of International Peace and Security**

**Special Committee on the Charter and on Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
24 February 2022**

Mr. Chair,

Speaking in national capacity, at the outset allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your successful election.

Mr. Chair,

We deeply regret that last night the principle of force of arms prevailed over diplomacy. The Republic of Moldova joins the international community in condemning in the strongest possible terms the act of war that the Russian Federation has launched against Ukraine.

The military invasion of a sovereign and independent state can have no justification or excuse. This act represents not only an attack against Ukraine. It constitutes a blatant breach of international law and the violation of the fundamental principles on which this Organization and international order is based.

These principles are well known and universally accepted - sovereign equality, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, refraining from the threat or use of force, non-interference in the internal affairs, cooperation between States, and fulfilment of their commitments under international law. All states must uphold and respect these key principles, and by no means to reinterpret or violate them.

The Republic of Moldova reconfirms its strong and unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We have always called for continued dialogue in order to ease the tensions along the borders of Ukraine. We call on other States not to follow nor to allow its territory to be used in this unprecedented act of aggression since World War II in Europe.

While being a neutral country, we call on the Russian Federation to immediately stop the use of military force, to withdraw its troops from the territory of Ukraine and to return to the path of diplomacy, dialogue and cooperation as the only tools for ensuring peace and stability on our continent.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has just requested the Parliament to declare a state of emergency in the country. The citizens of the Republic of Moldova who are located in Ukraine were asked to immediately return home.

At the border crossing points between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, there is an increase of transit flow into the RM and the authorities are deploying migration centers. At the moment the Moldovan authorities are stepping up their efforts to accommodate the significantly increased flow of persons from Ukraine.

Today in the meeting of the Supreme Security Council as a neighboring country Moldovan authorities took decisions meant to face the economic and humanitarian consequences that this military conflict could generate. There are already close to 5 thousand refugees who have entered the territory of Moldova from Ukraine over the last several hours. We count on every support in this sense from the partner countries.

Concluding, we want to reiterate Moldova's unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you.