NATIONAL SECURITY CONCEPT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Introduction

The present National Security Concept of the Republic of Moldova drafted by a specialized committee founded by presidential decree no. 374-IV of December 22, 2005 and consisting of representatives of state administration, civil society and academic media, will be passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and become the document that reflects the general overview of the national and international security state of affair, and defines the national security policy objective, main guidelines, general values and principles that shall be protected by the Moldovan society, as well as reconfirms country's irreversible course of European integration.

The concept stems from the comprehensive understanding of the national security, the multidimensional and interdependent character of it that is influenced not only by the political, military and public order factors, but also by the social, environmental, energy security and other factors. Thus, the concept clearly sets up the principles that the national security system must observe: respect for democratic principles, development of market economy, establishment of an efficient civil control over armed forces and force institutions, maintain good relationships with the neighboring countries, increase interoperability of the national and western security and defense systems, adequate level of information classification. Concurrently, the concept paper supports reforms in sectors that are vital for the national security, such as: healthcare, education and fight against corruption. The provision of this document shall be implemented within the constitutional status of neutrality of the Republic of Moldova and shall not infringe upon it.

The changes that occurred at national, regional and global levels and the continued dynamics of these changes have lead to exhaustion of juridical effects of the National Security Concept that was passed by Parliament on May 15, 1995. These changes have lead to the adoption of the new document.

The National Security Concept of the Republic of Moldova is a document that outlines the medium term national security priorities of the state. It will serve as a basis for conducting the national security policy, improvement of the national security system, delineation of the competencies and responsibilities of the state authorities in order to prepare and assure proper means and forces to maintain the security of the nation and lasting development of the state.

1. THE AIM OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY, MAIN NATIONAL SECURITY GUIDELINES, GENERAL VALUES, RISKS AND VULNERABILITES OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

1.2 The aim of the national security and basic national security guidelines

The Aim of the national security of the Republic of Moldova is to ensure and defend the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, constitutional order, democratic development and internal security, and to consolidate the statehood of the Republic of Moldova, which is equivalent to the edification of the national identity of the Moldovan people.

The national security of the Republic of Moldova shall be provided for by observing the legislation and by making use of foreign and domestic policy instruments of the state.

The EU integration path of the Republic of Moldova and deepening of the relations with North Atlantic Treaty Organization, expressed through implementation of western security standards while building the national security system, as well as maintenance of good bilateral and regional relations, and participation to the multilateral cooperation will be the factors that enable the Republic of Moldova to defend its national interests and achieve its national security aims.

The policy of the Republic of Moldova in the field of national security derives from the indivisibility, complexity and multidimensionality of the security, from the need to intensify the international cooperation in the security field and to defend and cultivate the democratic values. The Republic of Moldova strives for a quality transformation into a country that actively supports the process of generating and spreading stability and security in the region. Unconditional adherence to the democratic values and principles shared by the EU member states shall represent the main guarantee for and serve as foundation of the national security of the Republic of Moldova.

The Republic of Moldova supports the principle that every nation has the right and freedom to chose its own ways to ensure its national security, and that no nation should jeopardize the security of another nation. The national security policy of the Republic of Moldova is not targeted against the national security of other states.

Given its national interests, as well as the commitments that derive from the European integration policy, the Republic of Moldova shall guide itself by the following national security guidelines:

- restoration of the territorial integrity of the state, withdrawal of foreign military presence on its territory, consolidation of its independence and statehood;
- upkeep the dynamics of the European integration processes and deepen the relations with NATO, develop cooperation with the EU and NATO member states;
- ensure the democratic development of the society and consolidation of the domestic security;
- ensure the economic and social development by accelerating the political, economic and institutional reforms, primarily of those conducive to EU integration criteria fulfillment;
- plenary development and exploration of the human potential, the main resource of the country; efficient protection of human rights and interests of Moldovan citizen at home and abroad;
- consolidation of the economic, social, energy and environmental aspects of the national security;
- consolidation of the national military security;
- participation of the Republic of Moldova to the efforts of the strengthening the international security.

To achieve the aim of its national security, the Republic of Moldova will implement its foreign, security and defense policies, will consolidate the constitutional order in the country, public safety and security of the sectors of vital importance to the state in a coordinated and interdependent manner. Assessment and analysis of threats and risks that impact the national security will make an essential part of the activity of public authorities and state force

institutions, which shape the state's security policy. At the same time this activity offers the necessary ground for short term planning by the Government of coordinated actions of its agencies to be carried out in respective fields.

1.2 The International Security Environment And the Republic of Moldova's positioning in this environment

The national security of the Republic of Moldova directly depends on the developments in international security environment. The process of the EU and NATO enlargement are favorable to the development process of the Republic of Moldova and edification of the national and regional security. Concurrently, the persisting effects of the bipolar world system that existed in the past and during the cold war, alongside with the instability of the post-Soviet space, are the circumstances that generate multiple threats and risks for the national security of the state. The situation is placed in a global context of a continuous change, being dominated by the globalization process that, in its turn, attaches the new quality to the threats and risks the contemporary world is facing. Moreover, the globalization process is conditioning the interrelation between the internal situation in the country and external processes on the international arena and overseas.

The new risks and threats that are generated by the changes in the international security are: international terrorism; proliferation of arms of mass destruction; cross-border organized crime; illegal trafficking in persons, arms and narcotics; illegal migration triggered by crises and poverty.

The process of international terrorism intermeddling with the cross-border organized crime and proliferation of arms is ongoing. The states of conflict are in a continuous transformation and, thus, create favorable grounds for such phenomena. Therefore, the national security system of the Republic of Moldova must obtain an adequate functional shape and build up the necessary capabilities to combat such phenomena and settle the conflicts that feed or conduce to international terrorism. This may be achieved by connecting the Republic of Moldova to the Euro-Atlantic security area expressed through the implementation of respective security standards within the national security system. This connection, as mentioned before, should not affect the neutrality of the Republic of Moldova.

Provided the above, the need for closer international bi- and multilateral security cooperation becomes more imperative. Abilities of international organizations to intervene and solve concrete security problems, however, continue to fall short of full accomplishment.

The rhythm of international contact development, including by those who are not subjects of international law, increases the further internationalizing of various social and ecological issues. Therefore, the Republic of Moldova may more often be threatened by the problems originated from outside its borders. Given the small size of the country and its openness, the economy of the Republic of Moldova is strongly contingent upon the global economic situation, particularly upon changes that occur on the traditional markets for Moldovan products. Consolidation of the national security of the Republic of Moldova demands a greater development and diversification of transparent and well balanced by the state economic relations. In this context, creation of a stable and favorable climate for foreign investment is important.

1.3 Threats and Vulnerabilities of the National Security

1.3.0 The Transnistrian conflict and foreign military presence on the territory of the Republic of Moldova

The illegal presence of foreign military troops on the territory of the country and the phenomenon of political separatism that generated the Transnistrian conflict and loss of control over the Eastern regions are a continuous threat to independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national security of the Republic of Moldova. The fundamental rights and freedoms of the population from the left Nistru bank are systematically violated by the separatist regime's structures. Lack of control on behalf of constitutional Moldovan authorities over the Transnistrian segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border favors smuggling of goods, which seriously harm the economic security of the country and fuel cross-border organized crime, illegal traffic of ammunition, drugs and human beings.

Military threats are linked to the illegal presence in the Eastern regions of the Republic of Moldova of foreign military forces, ammunition and armaments, as well as to the activity of the factories in the Transnistrian region, that produce armament without any monitoring or tracking, which must be conducted by the competent Moldovan authorities.

The presence of the Russian troops and armament on the territory of the Republic of Moldova contravenes the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, international commitments and the will of Moldovan citizens, thus becoming a political pressure tool and major threat to the national security of the country. The foreign military presence on the territory of Moldova favors the consolidation of the separatist regime.

1.3.1 Threat of Foreign Coercion

The threat of foreign coercion, political or other, to influence the foreign and domestic policy of the Republic of Moldova is real. Such pressure may be exerted by means of economic or other constraints against the Republic of Moldova or through the special services of other states. The EU integration process that facilitates the political, economic and social transformations in the country, cumulated with the civil society consolidation based on democratic values, rule of law and legality shall foster the capacity of the Republic of Moldova to cope with coercions and, whenever needed, to efficiently respond to such types of threats.

1.3.2 External Negative Developments and International Crises

Problems which the Republic of Moldova is confronted with may not be addressed in isolation from the developments in certain areas of Europe, the latter being subject of broader international concerns. The current threats to the national security of the Republic of Moldova may become more imminent if combined with other new threats, including negative external developments and unsolved international crises. Contradictory developments in the pos-Soviet area might conduct to the generation of new threats to the security of the Republic of Moldova. Given the indivisibility of the European security, the Republic of Moldova's national security is influenced by the security issues on the continent and vice versa. Crisis situations and their consequences threaten the security on the continent. Prolonged instability on the sub-regional level negatively impacts the process of promoting lasting development strategies,

discourages foreign investments, closes markets for Moldovan products, favors illegal migration and trafficking in ammunition and narcotics.

1.3.3 The Threat of Organized Crime

Organized crime, including the cross-border organized crime, follows the tendency to intermingle with the activity of terrorist organizations and with the proliferation of arms of mass destruction. The persistence of criminal factors creates premises for terrorist activities and proliferation of arms. Without control over the Eastern regions and the Transnistrian segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, the phenomenon of organized crime represents an ascending threat to the national security of the Republic of Moldova. This risk factor may also generate negative effects at the sub-regional and regional levels.

The danger of increasing influence of the cross-border organized crime over the Moldovan society, combined with corruption and eventual penetration of the political, economic and social spheres by the organized crime may undermine the supremacy of law and, implicitly, the national security of the Republic of Moldova.

1.3.4 The Treat of International Terrorism

On the background of diminishing military threats to the national security, non-conventional threats, in particular the globalization of international terrorism and proliferation of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear arms, including their acquisition by non-state entities, are growing.

Reduction of the international terrorism threat and prevention of proliferation of arms of mass destruction are possible only by concerted and rapid actions on international level that requires Moldova's participation based on its international commitments. Additionally to the actions undertaken in the context of international cooperation, the Republic of Moldova is implementing domestic anti-terrorism measures.

1.3.5 Threats that derive from human activity and Natural Disasters

The threats that derive from human activity and that may impact the national security of the Republic of Moldova are: explosions and conflagrations; accidents at power stations, at plants that use radioactive and chemical agents, at transportation enterprises, as well as cross-border effects of such accidents.

In the South-eastern European region, where the Republic of Moldova is situated, the potential danger may be caused by the obsolete equipment of several nuclear power stations and large enterprises that use dangerous chemicals in their industrial process.

Natural disasters that may determine force major in the Republic of Moldova are earthquakes, floods, landslides and other of a natural origin.

1.3.6 Economic Threats

Because of its small size and increasing economic interdependency between the Republic of Moldova and the global economic system, a global or regional economic crisis or instability on

the traditional or priority foreign markets may considerably impact the country's economy. The major risk factors of economic origin that could pose threat to the national security of the Republic of Moldova are generated by the excessive and unilateral dependency of local electric and energy systems as well as of gas distribution networks on foreign monopolies in the filed. This dependency, at the same time, constitutes the internal vulnerability of the state.

1.3.7 Social Threats

Drug addiction, alcoholism, HIV/AIDS spread, and other contagious highly dangerous diseases for the society represent a threat to the welfare, social and political stability of the country.

1.3.8 IT Threat

Instable and dysfunctional information systems may pose threat to the national security. Progressive expansion of electronic information systems in the Republic of Moldova and the high degree of interconnection with the international information systems facilitate the criminogenic factor in the field of IT and increase the vulnerability of such systems, including in the spheres of primordial importance for the national security.

1.3.9 Internal vulnerabilities

The above-mentioned threats interconnect with the domestic vulnerabilities. The effects of these vulnerabilities may determine accentuation and manifestation of existing threats as well as generate new ones to the national security. Overlapping and combination of such effects may negatively impact the national security. Neglect, cease of monitoring and loss of control over the vulnerabilities may transform them into threats to national security and may trigger domestic instability. The negative effects on the national security caused by domestic vulnerabilities may be multiple, interdependent, dynamic and many-sided.

The main domestic vulnerabilities of the Republic of Moldova are:

- Existence of a range of factors that intercalate and favor the persistence of the aggressive separatism in the context of yet unsolved Transnistrian conflict. These vulnerability constitutes the impossibility to administrate the Eastern territory of the country, lack of control over the Transnistrian segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian state border, continued illegal and uncontrolled production of military equipment and armament, inability to control and manage the entire air space of the country.

- The excessive and unilateral dependency of the Republic of Moldova on foreign monopolistic energy systems represents a major internal vulnerability. This vulnerability may easily grow into a threat to the national security. Such also include the broad possibilities of accumulation of the foreign capital coming from economic systems where market economy rules are not secured or underdeveloped in the national economic sectors of major importance.

- Continuing problems within the energy system of the country that may cause disruptions in this system. Insufficient protection of energy sector objects.

- Lasting character of the transition period that continues to cause negative economic, financial, social effects and delays in structural reforms.

- Economic migration, unemployment, population aging and low birthrate phenomena. Lasting and complex character of the reduction of poverty process, existing tendencies of social polarization, as well as upholding of gray economy that may generate tensions and general discontent among people.

- The existing discrepancy between the actual needs and efforts spent by the law enforcement and special agencies to combat criminality, particularly, cross-border criminality.

- Corruption and management deficits within the state administration.

- Slow development of the informational infrastructure and low competitiveness in the IT sector, low quality of information processing and unsatisfactory use of information of national interest, lack of quick react capabilities on information that is bias and distorts the realities of the Republic of Moldova. Internal vulnerabilities also include maintaining the connectivity between national and former Soviet Union informational systems, and perpetuation of inconstancies in protecting classified information.

- Continued use of obsolete technologies that may be hazardous for people and lead to ecological disasters.

- Reduced capacity of preventing ecological disasters and natural calamities (land slides, floods, earthquakes, etc.), as well as addressing the consequences thereof.

- Emigration of highly qualified specialists and wakening of the country's development potential.

2. NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The system of national security is the aggregate of concepts, strategies, policies, means, regulations and administrative structures of a state, as well as of public/social institutions of the Republic of Moldova whose role is to implement, protect and promote the national interests of the Republic of Moldova. At the same time, the national security system of the Republic of Moldova is a mechanism in which its components interact, a mechanism that is based on the national interests and values of the Moldovan society, used for the implementation of the strategic objectives of the country, in compliance with the national security policy guidelines.

The state will implement functional and efficient standards in building a national security system.

2.1 The National Security Sector of The Republic of Moldova And Its Reformation

The Republic of Moldova understands the need for a national security system based on a clearly defined by a relevant normative documents institutional frame and highly qualified

personnel that will operate in compliance with the law. This institutional frame constitutes the national security sector of the Republic of Moldova.

The national security sector of the Republic of Moldova includes state force institutions (*operational level)* with a duty to protect the citizens and the state and state civil institutions (*administrative level)* with a duty to govern, plan, control and supervise the national security system. The national security sector is responsible for the implementation of the national security aim.

Given the multidimensional character of the security, the functioning of the national security sector is influenced by factors that determine the security environment and by the activity of authorities from the sectors of vital importance to the state.

Reformation of the national security sector of the Republic of Moldova is a complex process with spillover effects on state and non-state institutions from outside the definition of the national security sector of the Republic of Moldova, as stipulated by the present Concept. This process includes the following components: political, military and defense, foreign policy, intelligence and counterintelligence, constitutional order, justice, economic, financial, energetic, industrial, communications and infrastructure, social protection and environment - all of which are interdependent.

The process of national security sector reformation is based on the need of the Republic of Moldova to achieve an adequate security and stability level that would allow it to develop as a state and reach steady economic development, which will bring along sustainable security and stability. The national security sector reform is implemented with the participation of the civil society, mass-media, human rights organizations and relevant international institutions.

The process of reforming the national security sector particularly includes, but not limit itself to: improvement of the national security sector efficiency in line with the needs, guidelines and aim of the national security; consolidation of the national security sector's react capabilities to changes in the domestic and international security environment; assurance of functional civil control over the national security sector; strengthening the civil governance of the national security sector; consolidation of the national security sector's legitimacy; quality and quantity rescaling of the national security sector in a way that will allow conducting of the necessary planning activities and resource allocation in conformity with the priorities of the Moldovan society; effective prevention of conflicts, crises and emergency situations; reintegration of the country.

2.1.1 The institutions of the national security sector of the Republic of Moldova

State force institutions and state civil institutions which form the national security sector are: the National Army of the Republic of Moldova; Border Guard Service; Carabineer Troops, Security and Intelligence Service; Police bodies and Emergency Department of the Ministry of Interior; Custom Service; Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Justice; State Protection and Guard Service; the Center for Combating the Economic Crimes and Corruption; the permanent Parliamentary Committees on Defense, Security and Public Order as well as the parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy and European Integration; the Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration; Ministry of Reintegration; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Justice; the Prosecutor General Office.

The good functioning of the national security sector is indispensable with the activities of the institutions with the competences on multiple dimensions of security. This refers to the activity of the Ministry of Economy and Trade; Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure; Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; Ministry of Informational Development; Ministry of Health Care; Ministry of Social Protection; Ministry of Transportation and Roads; Ministry of Education and Youth; Ministry of Local Public Administration; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing; Academy of Science of Moldova; Standardization and Metrology Service; Bureau for Interethnic Relations and Judicial System.

The administrative competences in the national security system defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova and the country's legislation in force are exercised by the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Parliament and the Government.

The general coordination and adoption during peace time of the recommendations for decision making regarding the national security and the national security sector are carried out by the National Security Council.

2.1.2 The National Security Council and the civil dimension of the national security sector

The National Security Council is the structure meant to carry out the general coordination of the national security sector's institutions and activities of the other institutions exercised on different dimensions of the national security as well to adopt the recommendations for decision making on national security. During peace time the National Security Council exercises its attributions of the consultative body. In case of an emergency, siege or war the Council will serve as a body with deliberative functions.

On a basis of the provisions of the article 77 of the Moldovan Constitution, the President of the Republic of Moldova chairs the National Security Council.

The proper functioning of the Council is ensured by its Secretary, who is a civil person of the administration of the Republic of Moldova's President.

The permanent members of the National Security Council are: the President of the Republic of Moldova, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, the chairmen of the permanent Parliamentary Committees on National Security, Defense and Public Order, as well as for Foreign Policy and European Integration, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Minister of Defense, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Reintegration, the Minister of Finance, the SIS Director, the President's advisors on Domestic as well as on Foreign policy, the Secretary of the National Security Council.

While drafting its Rule and Regulations, the National Security Council will decide on establishing the positions of the permanent advisors and non-permanent members of the Council. The positions of the permanent advisors will be covered by the senior level officials from the state force institutions (*operational level*). The decision to invite the permanent advisors of the Council or its non-permanent members will be taken in accordance with the issue examine in the Council's session.

The functions of the National Security Council:

- Integrated analysis of the security situation. Caring out this function allows the comprehensive evaluation of the security situation which serves as a basis for elaboration/adjusting of the national security policy and adoption of adequate decisions. The main element of this task is the assessment of the multiple treats to the national security of the Republic of Moldova. The method for the threat assessment is the exchange of information and unification of efforts in the process of gathering information concerning threats. To fulfill this duty decisions are needed to create sufficient capabilities for the National Security Council.
- Adopting the recommendations on allocation of necessary resources in order to cope with the threats to the national security. Fulfilling this task allows balancing security allocations with other allotments of major importance for the country, as well as tackling thoroughly the national security concerns.
- Monitoring, controlling and supervising in the national security system. Caring out this task guarantees the efficient use of the allocated resources with the aim at consolidating security; analyzing the efficiency of the security plans or relevant structures; maintaining the ability of the different institutions to activate in crisis or emergency situations; supervising the process of expenditures, administration and implementation of the policies by the state force institutions; promoting political control and trust building between the institutions within the national security sector.
- Identifying the national security priorities. Caring out this duty allows structuring the national security priorities and planning the stages for accomplishing these priorities.
- Coordinating the activities in case of urgency or crisis. In case of crisis the Council will act as a body with deliberative tasks.
- Administering and monitoring the reformation process of the national security sector.

The National Security Council uses the capacities and expertise of the Interdepartmental Committees to manage the developments in the national security sector, like the National Committee on Implementing the Individual Partnership Action Plan, the State Committee on Strategic Defense Review etc. The Council may decide to set up new inter-institutional structures.

The National Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova and the Rules and Regulations of the National Security Council approved by a Decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova will refer in details on sub-divisions in the Council's structure, other structures associated with it and its functioning mechanism.

2.1.3 Consolidation of the military security and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova

Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova are responsible for ensuring the national security state of affair by military methods. The Armed Forces' main task is to ensure the Republic of Moldova's defense in any circumstances. The Armed Forces offer necessary support to the relevant public institutions in case of civil emergency, natural calamities, technological

accidents or disasters. The Armed Forces participate in the international peace operations, humanitarian and combating international terrorism missions.

The cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the objective of reaching by the Republic of Moldova's Armed Forces the maximum level of inter-operability will offer a basis for building and developing a viable, credible, efficient, operational and modern defense system for the country. This process envisages setting up and institutionalizing the system of defense planning through adopting necessary regulations. The reformation tasks of the armed forces of the Republic of Moldova are:

a) *Achieving sufficient defensive capabilities*, through the setting up and permanently maintaining forces that are credible, quantitatively sufficient and trained according to the modern standards, able to adequately react to the existent and potential risks and threats;
b) *Restructuring and modernizing the military force, through*:
    - Re-dimensioning the armed forces and establishing their new structure, professionalizing military personnel, modernizing and standardizing the training for performing military missions;
    - Maintaining functional capacity of the armament and existent equipment and increasing its quality both through modernizing it and through acquiring new modern equipment.

In the same context, it will be taken into consideration the need for adequate staff social protection, efficient management of the equipment, armament and excess infrastructure etc. With the aim at building and developing its defense system, the Republic of Moldova will develop a comprehensive Strategic Defense Review (SDR).

National Military Strategy will reflect the priorities and objectives of the Republic of Moldova's defense system development. The respective documents will take into consideration the Republic of Moldova's international commitments.

2.1.4 Consolidation of the domestic security

The domestic security and public order is an important component of the national security along with military security and other dimensions of the security of the Republic of Moldova. The main tasks of the institutions meant to ensure domestic security refer to guaranteeing stability in the Republic of Moldova, combating criminal phenomenon, protecting people and property rights.

2.1.4.1 The activity of the Security and Intelligence Service

The goal of the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS) of the Republic of Moldova is to ensure the domestic security and maintain constitutional order through preventive and special means of non-military nature. In order to achieve this goal and the general aim of the national security, the SIS collects and process the information on the ground of what the fundamental thesis of the national security policy are formulated.

The Security and Intelligence Service collects, verifies, assesses, keeps and develops the necessary information for acknowledging, prevention and counter any actions that bring or

might bring threats to sovereignty, independence, safety, constitutional order and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The SIS gathers information about evolution and events occurring outside the country, which allow formulating defense, economic and foreign policies of the Republic of Moldova. The SIS functions are: recognition, prevention and countering espionage and subversive activities against the Republic of Moldova, actions with impact on the democratic institutions of state and other actions that are threatening the state's security; providing counterintelligence information for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova; assuring the security of the Moldovan institutions overseas and of the forces participating to a peace missions; prevention and countering of the terrorism, of the financing and supporting terrorism and extremists movements activities; setting up and maintaining the secure functioning of the of the government communications; protection of the classified information; conducting of other activities envisaged by legislation.

Obtaining pertinent information in reasonable time limits on developments that may threaten the national security is crucial for maintaining the constitutional order and domestic security of the Republic of Moldova. In order to efficiently counter the security threats, the ISS also develops an international cooperation and an inter-agency cooperation within the country.

The international cooperation the SIS participates is important for obtaining the information on regional crisis, combating terrorism, preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, illegal arms, drugs and human being traffic.

The SIS in cooperation with the law enforcement bodies acts to prevent the infiltration of the organized crime in politics and public administration.

2.1.4.2 The activity of the law enforcement agencies

The activity of the law enforcement agencies aims at maintaining public order. The phenomenon of organized cross-border crime is the biggest threat to the public order and security of the Republic of Moldova. The fight against organized cross-border crime is conducted in cooperation with the subdivisions of the Ministry of Interior, Border Guard Service, Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption and Prosecutor General Office and the Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Justice.

The fight against organized crime is aimed at curbing and preventing criminal activities on accumulation of illegal profits on a big scale.

An increased attention shall be drawn to benefiting from the opportunities offered by the Interpol and Europol as well as by the cooperation with the law enforcement agencies in the neighboring states.

There is a need for setting up a witness protecting system in order to participate to the relevant international programs.

2.1.4.3 Border Management and illegal migration

The efficient management of the state border that includes supervision and qualified control is essential for ensuring the national security of the Republic of Moldova. The border security system is shall be adjusted to the relevant requirements applied in the European Union.

Modernization of the state border management of the Republic of Moldova should be conducted in a way that offers opportunities for open cooperation with neighbors and does not imply new barriers. The process of adjusting of the national legislation to the acquis communitaire in that field will be regarded as a priority.

The Border Guard Service in cooperation with other competent authorities acts to prevent illegal border crossing and to ensure the efficient procedures to the state border crossing points, being responsible for maintaining high standards of the border control. Setting up border integrated management system is essential for guaranteeing the border security, increasing the efficiency of the fight against illegal migration, organized crime, terrorism and other forms of criminal cross-border activity.

The cooperation between the Border Guard Service, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, SIS and other competent agencies dealing with illegal migration issues will follow the objective to build an integrated control system of the migration flow and to ensure the efficiency of the measures already adopted to counter the existing risks.

2.1.4.4 Crisis management services

The goal of ensuring domestic security entails adequate capability and proper training in order to promptly react to the emergency civil situation, natural disasters and ecologic catastrophes. In an emergency situation it is necessary to guarantee the functioning of the sectors of vital importance to the state, to protect the infrastructure and secure the public information. In order to ensure the functionality of the institutions of vital importance to the state in emergency situations it is necessary to reorganize the system of strategic reserves and to adapt it to the nation's needs. The sufficient equipment and proper training of the staff of the MoI's Department on Emergency Situations, law-enforcement bodies, institutions of the energetic, transportation, communication, and ecologic, health care and social protection systems are crucial.

2.3 The management of the problems related to the Transnistrian conflict and foreign military forces withdrawal

As it was mentioned in the present Concept, the Transnistrian conflict, the lack of an efficient control on the Transnistrian section on the Moldovan - Ukrainian border, the presence of Russian troops and armament on the territory of the Republic of Moldova constitutes a major obstacle in the state and society's development and generates multiple interconnected threats of conventional and non-conventional nature to the national, regional and international security. Therefore, the Transnistrian conflict settlement and reintegration of the country is no longer an internal problem of the Republic of Moldova, instead it evolved into a regional security problem and its settlement requires full involvement of external influential factors such as the EU and the USA.

The Republic of Moldova spends efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict, secured Moldovan - Ukrainian border and unconditional implementing by the Russian Federation of its commitments made at the OSCE summit in Istanbul in 1999. These are the priority objectives of the foreign and security policy of the country.

Fomented separatism and increased instability are generated by the illegal presence on the country's territory of the foreign military forces and armaments. The Republic of Moldova will use all legal methods to reach the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Russian military forces, according to the Istanbul (1999) OSCE Summit's decisions. The full implementation of the Istanbul's decisions will set the conditions for the Republic of Moldova to ratify the Adapted CFE Treaty.

On July 22, 2005 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted the Law on basic provisions of the special legal status of Transnistria, (nr. 173-XVI) which determines the future autonomy framework of the region within the structure of the reintegrated state.

The Republic of Moldova's authority's vision regarding the ways for Transnistrian conflict settlement actively supported by the Moldovan civil society includes, in particular, the goal of democratization and demilitarization of the Transnistrian region as well as implementing a confidence building measures.

The democratization process requires the establishment of an international mechanism for political reforms that would allow for free and fair elections leading to the legitimate local authorities. The future autonomy status of the region with the reunified country will be negotiated only with such legitimate authorities and in accordance with the principles stipulated in the above-mentioned law of 22 July 2005. In order not to allow for external pressure on the voters, Moldovan authorities believe that the electoral process must be preceded by withdrawal of foreign troupes from the territory of the country.

The demilitarization means the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the territory of the country, dismantlement of the paramilitary forces and the security structures of the unconstitutional regime, the replacement of the current peacekeeping operation with an international mission of civilian and military observers established in line with the UN/OSCE standards. An international inspection should take place at the armaments stockpiles of the Russian Federation and an OSCE-led monitoring mission should be organized at the military industrial complex in the Transnistrian region.

The objectives on securing the state border include: drafting and implementing the National Strategy on integrated stet border management in order to adapt the existing border management to the EU standards; further cooperation with Ukraine and the EU border assistance mission (EUBAM); consolidating the cooperation between the national institutions with related competences at the border and international cooperation on combating terrorism, proliferation of mass destruction arms and illegal migration as well as in combating all types of border crimes.

2.3 Consolidating the supremacy of law and democratic institutions

From the perspective of the national security of the Republic of Moldova, guaranteeing the good functioning of the democratic institutions and the rule of law, as well as protecting human rights and fundamental liberties of the people are primary objectives. The administrative, public order protection and judicial systems are consolidated and developed to ensure the governance functionality based on rule of law.

The continuing development of the civil society is essential for the functioning of the democratic institutions and the rule of law. The preconditions for the development of the civil society are ensured by the constitutional democratic and stable framework, level of openness of the society, promoting civil initiatives and accessibility to the high quality education.

2.4 Prevention and Combating corruption and organized crime

The policy on prevention and combating corruption and its successful implementation requires the compliance of the public authorities' activities with the democratic and rule of law standards. The Republic of Moldova worked out a long-term state policy on combating economic crimes and corruption.

These areas are developed through balanced cooperation between the public sector, private sector and the society ensuring, at the same time, the implementation of the international commitments made by the Republic of Moldova in the respective filed. The main tasks of the strategy on combating corruption are improving the legislation and consolidating the institutional system as well as increasing and supporting public information on legal issues.

The main state institutions assigned to fight economic crimes and corruptions are:

- *The Centre for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption* the main body tasked with preventing and combating corruption, with main functions including: a) preventing, identifying, investigating and curbing economic-financial and fiscal infringements and crimes; b) fighting corruption and protectionism; c) combating legalization of goods acquired illegally and money-laundering; d) anti-corruption expertise for the draft bills and the Executive's regulations with the aim at bringing them in line with the state policy on preventing and combating corruption.

- *Anti-corruption and criminal investigation Prosecutor Office* a specialized subdivision within the PGO of the Republic of Moldova. The Prosecutor Office leads and conducts criminal investigations, represents the prosecution in courts, as well as checks the legality of the procedural-criminal activities carried out by the criminal investigation body.

- *Other public authorities, as envisaged by legislation*

The amendments operated within the national legislation regarding the legalization of the capital and fiscal amnesty are directed to improve the situation in the fields of registration of the private property and taxation and to facilitate the prevention of a legalization of an illegally gained property as well as the gathering of a necessary proofs for the identification of the penal cases.

2.5 The consolidation of the economic, energetic, intellectual property, social and ecologic security of the Republic of Moldova. Regional development.

2.5.2 Consolidating economic security

The rapid, balanced and durable economic growth is vital for achieving the goals of the security policy of the Republic of Moldova. It is in the national interest of the Republic of

Moldova to promote the diversification of the foreign economic relations. In that respect it is important to maintain a stable economic environment, which, along with other factors, will ensure the attractiveness of the Republic of Moldova for foreign investments.

The Republic of Moldova ensures the credibility of its financial system. In order to settle the international crisis and their economic consequences, it is necessary to ensure a long lasting stability and a fund reserve in the financial system of the country.

The goal of the economic policy is to achieve a durable economic and social development. Taking into consideration that a stable macroeconomic environment is an important precondition for growth, its preservation becomes an essential task of the economic policy of the Government.

In this respect, the long-term priorities of the Republic of Moldova are the following: creating favorable conditions for economy functioning, stimulating setting up the efficient and competitive industrial structures, as well as reducing disproportions and economic risks. Apart from these tasks, it is important to improve the national taxation policy, paying considerable attention to tax collection.

To ensure economic security, it is necessary to diversify the economy with the orientation to the goods and services with the high added value. During the process of diversification of the national economy it is necessary to increase the significance of the promising industries that were underdeveloped up to date, meanwhile maximally using the advantages offered by the current industries. The Republic of Moldova will promote a development policy oriented to innovation, setting up and functioning of the innovational system. Enhancing competitiveness and reaching out to new foreign markets will be encouraged.

Creating necessary conditions for the economic development, it is important to create a favorable environment for business promotion, to develop a state policy on goal-oriented assistance, to improve the fiscal system and its management, as well as to set up a system for training and business consultancy.

A competitive industry considerably influences the economic development and the security of the country. The volume increase of the competitive products with the high added value and their export may diminish the deficit of the foreign trade. Thus, the attraction of investments in the industrial sector will enhance.

According to the international standards, the Republic of Moldova increases its security measures in the field of transport.

The country's economic development is also related to the ability to maintain and enhance the transit loads flow. The main tasks in developing the transportation services are ensuring the services' competitiveness, building oil and oil products pipelines, modernizing the road network, the East-West rail road corridor and the connected infrastructure.

The Republic of Moldova pays increased attention to developing transportation infrastructure and to the integration process in the European and global transportation network. The Republic of Moldova is firmly decisive to continue its active participation in expending the

trans-european transportation network, benefiting at large from its geographic position as a bridge between the EU and countries from the CIS zone.

2.5.2 Consolidating energetic security

Regulation of the energy market and the development of an adequate infrastructure have to ensure sufficient electric power supply for consumers, as well as an appropriate exercise of the essential state functions. On the gas market, the activities of gas suppliers must be carefully monitored. It is essential to identify opportunities for a diversification of gas supply sources for the country. On the thermal agents market, proper conditions will be created in order to provide heating to the population even in cases when the supply with the basic fuel is interrupted. On the bunker oil market, a minimum quantity of fuel will be stored to match at least the EU quantitative standards and to ensure its efficient use in cases when a regular supply with bunker oil is interrupted. There is a need to foresee a possibility for storing a certain quantity of bunker oil outside of the country.

The situation in the energy sector could have a serious impact over the economic security and over the country's further development. It is necessary to create oil reserves in the country. With the liberalization of the energy industry market, which implies joining a common European energy and oil market, ensuring security of the supplies system should be one of the major requirements. The use of local energy resources and an increase of their efficiency, creation of new energy capacities built on advanced technologies are regarded as priority goals aimed at reducing the country's dependency on the imported resources.

A successful implementation of the Energy Strategy should contribute to the settlement of some conceptual problems as it is an important component in a multidimensional approach towards the energy sector. Gradual integration of the Republic of Moldova's energy system in the South-east European Energy Community will increase, primarily, integration in the Pan-European energy system while contributing simultaneously to reducing the country's unilateral energy dependency as energy issue is being examined on the regional level. In the context of the National Gasification Program, it is viewed as of primary importance to develop the main gas pipelines, branches and local network infrastructure. With the launch of the Giurgiulesti Terminal it is expected that the country's energy dependency will decrease.

2.5.4 Consolidating social security

To strengthen the citizens' social security, it is essential to solve the problems related to the employment market, to establish a durable system of social security that will cover the vulnerable groups and to educate and train a highly qualified work force able to ensure the continuity of the economic growth.

In public health-related emergency situations an increased number of people might need medical assistance due to the outbreak of contagious disease, mass intoxication or exposure to radiation. The Republic of Moldova develops its national system to cope with public health emergencies according to the European standards. It is important in that respect to build on the accumulated experience in the PfP.

Combating contagious diseases, including spreading the HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, is the state's responsibility. In the Republic of Moldova the measures on preventing the expansion of

the very dangerous contagious diseases are implemented according to the international medical regulations. National programs are put into practice to reduce drug addiction, to limit the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

The capacity and durable development of the social security system, which protects the citizens in case of social risk and offers handicapped people means to support their lives, play an important role in preventing social tensions and ensure the welfare of the society. The main tasks of the social security system are to provide the social insurance and assistance.

The system of state social insurance precedes the state pension insurance, maternity and sickness, unemployment insurance, as well as the cases of industrial accidents or professional diseases. The category of ensured people will be extended, the pension age will be gradually increased, a support system of those unemployed will be developed (including payment of allowances) which will facilitate the return of unemployed citizens on the work market.

The state social insurance services cover three main fields: medical assistance (allowances), social care and social rehabilitation. The provision of these services as well as the number of categories of people who will benefit from alternative social services will grow. The management of the social assistance and financial system will be improved. The education of the society regarding the social care and rehabilitation issues, citizen's rights and obligations will be further promoted. The functioning of social assistance is assigned to the state and local public administration.

2.5.3.1 Health care

The public health is an important indicator of the social unity and equality, welfare and poverty as well as of the environment factors and cultural standards. In order to rapidly improve the people's health in the Republic of Moldova, it is necessary to increase the efficiency of the medical practice of the society on the ground of certain scientific measures meant to improve the health, to prevent diseases and to increase life duration.

To fulfill this task it is necessary to consider the public health's risk factors as well as the environment protection, consumer security, health insurance and labor security.

The aim of the health care is to ensure the medical service quality available for the population while improving the structure of the assigned services, to strengthen and increase the quality of the routine health services, to guarantee the cost efficiency and rational approach to the patients, as well as to create the ground for a system of integrated departmental medical services to act in the emergency situation both on the local and national level.

In other terms, the goal is to reach high quality, easily accessible health care for the population and a system of first medical assistance on low costs, equitable, qualitative and rapid for all citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

2.5.3.2 Ensuring the unitary character of the society

The consolidation of a balanced and democratic society in the Republic of Moldova occurs through implementing its policies on social integrity. The whole society plays an important role in the development of the country and in ensuring the social security. Thus, the civil society is

built with the aim at involving all population groups in the country's development. The integration process entails political integration, social and regional integration of the society, as well as the language and culture integration. In order to ensure an efficient functionality of the Republic of Moldova as a unitary state, which protects the multiethnic and multi-linguistic essence of its people, it is vital to implement a demographic policy targeting to stop the demographic decline and the overall ageing of the Moldovan society, as well as reaching in future of a positive rate of population growth.

The Republic of Moldova guarantees the rights of the persons belonging to the ethnic minorities or different social groups and helps them to integrate in the society. The Republic of Moldova will continue to support the public information on political processes, on the country's history and culture, opportunities and rights to participate in these processes, thus stimulating civic spirit and involvement. Along with naturalization of foreign citizens, their involvement in the social and political life will be promoted.

Improving the organization of work force, reducing (preventing) the unemployment, consolidating the links between the education and employment market as well as preventing unfavorable regional differences are able to diminish to the minimum the risk of social rejection.

In the process of integrating the society in the education area, the most significant target groups are youth and children. The state's education and cultural policy system will guarantee acquiring and inheriting both the general human values specifically promoted by the Republic of Moldova and the opportunities for preserving the intercultural education and cultural identity of the ethnic minorities. The educational system will continue to promote learning the state language of the Republic of Moldova, thus facilitating the integration of the society.

The national cultural policy anticipates the state and municipal responsibilities in further preserving and developing all nationalities that live in the Republic of Moldova, their cultural inheritance and involvement in the contemporary life.

2.5.4 Food security and consumer protection

The food policy's goal is to develop an agricultural sector with products that comply with the European and global market's requirements as well as competitive quality and production costs. To achieve this goal, the following activities will be undertaken: modernizing production technologies, ensuring the quality during the whole process of production and distribution, promoting and developing markets.

The credibility, security and quality of the food products are fundamental criteria to be met in order to protect the consumer's health and ensure the food products' competitiveness on the internal and external markets. Considering the influence of this policy on the social and economic spheres as well as on political and international relations, drafting and implementing such a policy is an actual and important task. Organizing and developing the food industry, as well as the consumer' supply with healthy and qualitative food products will involve two intertwined policies – the food industry economic policy and the policy of credibility, security and quality of the food products.

Aspiring to harmonious development of the rural areas and amelioration of the environment, the concept of rural development will be worked out and along with its implementation another long term development program on rural areas will be worked out. Other non-related to agriculture business will be promoted, thus facilitating the settlement of the social and economic problems of the rural areas.

The epizootic situation in the country is systematically under control. The prevention and action plans are drafted and periodically updated to address epidemiological threats. In case of mass animal infection, a set of compensation measures to eliminate the animals' diseases will be drafted and implemented.

2.5.5 Ensuring intellectual property security

To ensure the intellectual property security, the efforts will be oriented to the harmonization of the intellectual property system of the Republic of Moldova with the existing mechanisms in the European Union. An important aspect and an indispensable condition in this field consists in the improvement of application of the national legislation regarding the intellectual property. In the context of internal and external risks in this field, the Moldovan civil society will be informed on the importance of the intellectual property rights. Taking into consideration the European aspirations of the country, an important element is the stimulation of participation of the research institutions to the projects on the intellectual property protection conducted within the European Union. A better application of the legislation on author right and connected rights will contribute to a better organization and management of the national system of intellectual property protection.

2.5.6 Consolidating environment security and preserving biodiversity

The Republic of Moldova fulfills its commitments which derive from different International Conventions on environment with the aim at improving and modernizing the national system of monitoring the environment quality.

In that respect the Republic of Moldova undertakes necessary measures with the view at harmonizing the national legislation and regulations in the filed of environment protection and using natural resources with the EU Directives, according to the European Commission's General Directorate for Environment.

The Republic of Moldova also actively participates in the relevant working groups established by the international organizations. To cope with the consequences of the emergency situations which generated the pollution with chemical and radioactive agents, there is a need for continuous improvement and modernization of the national system for monitoring the environment's quality according to the international standards.

To prevent the uncontrolled proliferation in the environment of the genetically modified bodies (GMO), the Republic of Moldova will have strict regulations on import, risk assessment, labeling, monitoring and control of the GMO.

Further efforts will be undertaken to combat the anthropogenic factors that have a negative influence on the biodiversity and on the ecosystem in general. The state will protect the rare species and will take new measures to regenerate the traditional species on the territory of

the Republic of Moldova. Pollution control, risk management and biodiversity preserving will contribute to the creation of a better environment for life.

2.5.7 The policy of regional development

Implementing the policy of regional development of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the existing legislation will ensure the rapid development of the underdeveloped regions and reduction of life standards' differences inside the country, as well as will facilitate the balanced development of the entire country.

At the government level, promoting a regional policy and coordinating with structural instruments according to the EU standards will be ensured. The concentration of the resources and institutional system will be consolidated, and their capacity will be strengthened both at the national, regional and local.

One of the preconditions for a more rapid development of the country as well as for ensuring domestic security and stability is a successful administrative reform along with implementation of the projects that promote the local administration development.

With the development of the regional development policy's objectives, the favorable conditions for investment flow and the development of the entrepreneurial activities will be ensured. This will offer support to the less developed and rarely populated regions. The development of the local infrastructure is important. The development of the route network (including alternative roads for main routes) and the communication systems, as well as ensuring education and cultural infrastructure, also, have a considerable importance.

2.6 The security of the informational technologies

With the increase of the informational technologies' role in the public and private sector, their place in the state' security and defense enhances as well, especially if we take into account that there are no borders in the informational technologies field. At the same time, there is increased need to ensure the security and efficient administration of the national informational systems, as well as to protect the fundamental rights of the Republic of Moldova's citizens.

Taking into account the growing level of computerization of the country, the informational security will be ensured on a legal and organizational level through diminishing main risk factors like informational viruses, flawed functioning of the computers and soft programs, negligence or bad-intentions of the users and unauthorized connection of the third persons.

Aiming at improving the informational technologies security it is necessary to work out a project on developing the reserved communicational networks in order to be used in the crisis situation. For secured stocking of the data base of national importance it is necessary to set up archives and stocks of electronic documents.

In order to prevent the information-related crimes and threats to the domestic security, which may be caused by the vulnerability of the informational technologies systems, as well as to ensure the security of the data base and registers, it is necessary to undertake organizational

and physical security measures. Otherwise, the information related crimes may reach a dangerous scale of organized crime along with illegal traffic of arms and drugs.

In order to ensure an adequate functioning of the state defense system in case of crisis or times of war as well as to ensure the state's ability to timely and efficiently send the flow of information, including those classified, between the Republic of Moldova and the rest of the world, it is imperative to build sufficient national capacities to carry out secured exchange of information and stocking the information. In this respect it is also of a major importance to develop the capacities for a secured exchange of information on the domestic level, as well as between the Executive/MFA and diplomatic missions of the Republic of Moldova.

3. FOREIGN POLICY – AN INSTRUMENT OF PROTECTING AND CONSOLIDATING THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The foreign policy is part of the national security policy of the Republic of Moldova, with the objective to influence the international security environment in a way as to meet the national interests of the country. Foreign activities undertaken in order to implement the national security policy are directed toward establishing and consolidating a network of international relations and cooperation formulas that would diminish the risk of getting involved in conflicts, as this would jeopardize the national interests, and in case such conflicts exist/occur, would allow for their settlement in cooperation with our foreign strategic partners.

Stability, predictability and consistency of the Moldovan foreign policy serve as preconditions for Moldova's becoming a democratic European state, with an advanced economy and a high level of security.

In this context, the economic dimension of the foreign policy is regarded as an important factor. Diversification of markets for Moldovan exports, ensuring energy security, attraction of foreign investments, promotion of WTO and other western trade standards, as well as multiplication of free trade zones will always be among the priorities of the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova.

Special foreign policy actions aim at establishing a sustainable cooperation with the countries that share with the Republic of Moldova the same values – democracy, state of law, market economy and human rights. The national security aims will be achieved by carrying out specific diplomatic activities on multilateral and bilateral level and by implementing creative, dynamic and pragmatic foreign policy, in compliance with the international treaties and agreements the Republic of Moldova is party to, and with the UN Charter objectives and principles.

The Republic of Moldova wants to become a model for other countries, demonstrating the viability of the multiethnic state in which the rights and dignity of all its citizens are respected, regardless of the ethnicity, language or religion.

Continuous consolidation of cooperation with the EU and its member states, active participation in the global, regional and sub-regional efforts targeted toward promotion of international stability and security, development of relations with NATO within the constitutional provisions of neutrality, maintaining constructive relations with the neighboring countries and traditional economic partners, efficient management of the common social,

economic, financial, environmental and other issues are foreign and national security policy priorities of the Republic of Moldova.

3.1. Participation in international efforts to manage contemporary threats and challenges

The existing framework of multilateral cooperation offered by the international organizations allows for addressing and solving global and regional security issues, and contributes to the consolidation of the national security. The Republic of Moldova is interested in actively supporting, together with the EU member states, the initiatives within the UN, OSCE and other international organizations to prevent and resolve regional and internal conflicts, to fight international terrorism, to combat cross-border crime, to prevent the deterioration of the environment, spread of contagious diseases, proliferation of arms of mass destruction, as well as the initiatives to reduce poverty, to promote development, etc.

Taking into consideration the ongoing internal conflicts, many of which are associated with the existence of separatist entities inspired and supported from abroad, that threat the regional security and impinge on the territorial integrity and independence of sovereign states, the Republic of Moldova supports the establishment or efficient functioning inside of relevant international organizations, in particular the UN and OSCE, of mediation and consultation mechanisms for prevention and administration of crises and conflicts. Similarly, we will support initiatives of international organizations aiming at creation or improvement of the mechanisms of control over fulfillment of commitments by the member states. Participation of the Republic of Moldova in the UN peace operations and in the OSCE missions on the European continent is another instrument of the same objective. Building up the necessary capacities for participation in international peace operations, including the extension of this participation, is an integral part of the Republic of Moldova's Armed Forces and law enforcement agencies development and reform plan.

The Republic of Moldova participates in the anti-terrorist activities undertaken at the international level and supports within international organizations the initiatives of prevention and fighting terrorism.

As a responsible member of the international community and being aware of the illegal production and trafficking in arms in areas outside governments' control of the states affected by the internal conflicts, the Republic of Moldova supports the efforts targeting consolidation of confidence building measures, strengthening and extension of international regimes of arms control and prevention of proliferation of arms of mass destruction and some categories of conventional arms. Acknowledging the importance of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) as an instrument of European security that aims at providing transparency in the military activities by instating control over conventional arms and by exchanging information and implementation of a comprehensive monitoring system, the Republic of Moldova, as a state party, will initiate the ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty only if this step meets the security needs of the country, provided that all parties to the treaty commit to fully implement their respective international commitments.

3.2 European Union integration process

Enlargement of the EU is a factor that stabilizes the European security system and broadens the geographic area in which political, economic and social developments on the basis of a

democratic principles are guaranteed. The national security of the Republic of Moldova may not be conceived separately from the European security.

The process of European integration and acquiring of EU membership will positively influence and consolidate the security of the Republic of Moldova and will bring stability and prosperity to the country.

The Republic of Moldova supports the efforts of the European countries in building a sustainable security system in Europe. Regional cooperation through sub-regional organizations whose final objective is to facilitate the EU integration is an additional element of the continental security consolidation process. The Republic of Moldova actively participates in the activities of the regional institutions and initiatives, all of which pursue higher regional stability and therefore consolidation of the European security.

Deepening the political dialog and cooperation within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), as well as collaboration of parties in resolving the Transnistrian conflict will contribute to the consolidation of the national and regional security. In the context of the Transnistrian conflict, participation of the EU and the USA in the negotiation process is essential. The success of the EUBAM in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine will facilitate the process of solving general regional security issues related to illegal production of and trafficking in arms.

3.3 Cooperation with NATO

The relationship of the Republic of Moldova with NATO is conducted in conformity with the constitutional status of neutrality of the state, fall within the Euro-Atlantic Partnership and Partnership for Peace and meets the national interests of the country. The process of multidimensional and complex deepening the relationship with NATO, supported by both sides, aims at building a functional national security system for the Republic of Moldova and country's transformation from consumer of regional security to a generator of such. Concurrently, by cooperating with NATO, the Republic of Moldova wishes to improve its national capabilities of coping with new types of threats, including the old conventional ones.

Launching of the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) with NATO confirms the European orientation of the Republic of Moldova. Implementation of IPAP implies the transformation of the entire national security system in line with the western security standards. The reforms carried out as part of the IPAP are complementary to the process of transformation run in conformity with EU integration objective.

The objective of such reforms is to establish efficient mechanisms of civil control over armed forces and the entire national security sector of the country, broaden the interoperability of armed forces and other force institutions of Moldova with the those of European states, and creation of adequate budgeting mechanisms for the national security sector.

3.4 Security Relationships in the Black Sea Area

The most important insecurity and instability factors from the Black Sea area are the frozen conflicts and regions where the international norms are not applied. Transformation of the Black Sea area into a secure, stable, democratic and prosperous space through a multilateral

process supported by the European partners will enhance the region's security and, implicitly, the national security of the Republic of Moldova.

The security relations in the Black Sea area are developing both on bilateral level and inside various multilateral institutions and cooperation formulas. Due to the enlargement of the EU and NATO the role of these two organizations in security cooperation at Black Sea is growing.

Given the diversity that the Black Sea area presents, the Republic of Moldova maintains partnership relations and develops extensive cooperation with the countries from the region.

Participation of the USA in the process of including the Black Sea area in the Euro-Atlantic security area represents a guarantee in that respect.

Economic development of the Russian Federation is important to the security, stability and prosperity of the entire Black Sea area. In this context, the Republic of Moldova uses the opportunities and potential of the Moldovan-Russian relations to promote cooperation in fighting terrorism, organized crime, proliferation of arms, etc.

The Republic of Moldova attributes great importance to the Organization for Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) looking for for the consolidation of cooperation inside BSEC in the fields of energy, trade, transportation, communications, tourism and infrastructure development.

3.5 Bilateral Security Cooperation

International security is directly linked to the quality of the bilateral relations between members of the international community, despite their different views and contributions to the process. States with considerable political, military, economic and informational resources play an essential role in providing international security, having the ability to influence the situation at regional and global level.

The Republic of Moldova wishes to build up friendly relations with all democratic states. This will be done by supporting the UN Charter principles and with the purpose of receiving the support of other states in implementing the national priorities of the Republic of Moldova, including improvement of living standards of the population, reaching a sustainable solution to the Transnistrian conflict, and integration of Moldova into a united and free Europe.

As the Republic of Moldova requests assistance from stronger and more prosperous states to help it develop the national security and advance economically and politically, so will the Republic of Moldova, within existing possibilities, provide humanitarian, political, economic and security assistance to countries in need.

The Republic of Moldova attributes strategic importance to its relations with the USA, including in the field of security, both at bi- and multilateral frameworks. This cooperation implies a continuous and intense political dialogue at all levels, security consultations, reciprocal foreign policy support, exchange of information and US assistance in implementation of projects in different fields of development of the Republic of Moldova.

The European vocation of the Republic of Moldova and the EU integration process require establishment of strong relationships with UE member states, maintenance of an active dialog, exchange of experience, implementation of common projects. The Republic of Moldova stands for the principles of open, constructive and ascending cooperation with the EU member state, implementing the European security standards and practices.

The Republic of Moldova would like to attach a sustainable and constructive quality to its dialogue with Ukraine and Romania. The Republic of Moldova maintains its position that the common European values, respect for independency, sovereignty and territorial integrity shall govern the future relationship with Ukraine and Romania. In this context, the Republic of Moldova believes important to sign basic border and political treaties with Romania. One of the priorities of the relationship between the Republic of Moldova and its neighbors is regional security, including economic, energy and environmental security.

The Republic of Moldova regards an active cooperation of with the Baltic States and the Central and South-East European states as very important. This cooperation will include, among others, learning about the European integration experience of these states.

The Republic of Moldova will continue to develop bilateral relationship with the Russian Federation based on a spirit of friendship and collaboration in conformity with the provisions of the basic political Treaty that matches the interests of the people of the both states. The Republic of Moldova will shape its policy in such a way as to explore the constructive potential of the bilateral relations with Russian Federation in the political, economic, social and energy spheres, and in finding a solution to the Transnistrian conflict, based on the principles of independence and territorial integrity.

4. THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY. ITS ELEMENTS

After the adoption of this document, the Republic of Moldova will draft and approve the National Security Strategy that will describe the ways of guaranteeing the national security, the mechanisms of cooperation between the components of the national security system which include the NGOs and media, the coordinating tools of the national security system's activities and institutions with the responsibilities on different security dimensions, the funding procedures of the national security sector and the reformations stages of the national security system of the Republic of Moldova. The National Security Strategy will be approved by the Government of the Republic of Moldova. This document will serve as a foundation for drafting the National Military Strategy, the Strategy on Public Information on Security Issues and other sectors' strategies in the national security field.

FINAL AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

With the adoption of this new Concept, the Parliament decision no. 445-XIII from 15 May 1995 regarding the adoption of the National Security Concept of the Republic of Moldova ceases its effect.

The National Security Concept of the Republic of Moldova will be updated and modified with attaining the country's priority objectives in the national security field.