

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Politica externă a Republicii Moldova, ca parte organică a politicii sale de stat, este de o importanță incontestabilă și este strâns legată de opțiunea esențială de modernizare socială și integrare europeană. Ea reflectă starea asigurării sigure și stabile a societății și a statului capabil să asigure condiții de viață și existență a cetățenilor săi, să asigure apărarea drepturilor și libertăților fiecărui membru al societății, să creeze premise și condiții pentru dezvoltarea statală a statelor și a comunităților internaționale. Aceasta presupune asigurarea apărării de pericol intern și extern a valorilor de bază, a resurselor materiale, intelectuale și morale de existență, precum și a orânduirii constituționale și a suveranității statale, a independenței și integrității teritoriale.

Lying at the junction of three macro-regions - Central Europe, Balkans and CIS, the Republic of Moldova tries to find its place in the international arena.

Thus, under the „Foreign Policy Concept of the Republic of Moldova” (the main directions of activity, adopted on 8 February 1995, Nr. 368-XIII, as a priority of Moldova's foreign policy is considered to be strengthening the country's independence and sovereignty; ensuring territorial integrity; affirming the country as a factor of regional stability; helping to promote social and economic reforms necessary for transition to market economy and raising the welfare population; building the rule of law that would be secured and brought to international standards of fundamental rights and freedoms human rights, as well as of persons belonging to national minorities [1].

Achieving these priorities, which consist, in fact, the essence of Moldova's foreign policy would help to ensure, according to major national interests of our state edification as an independent, unitary and indivisible one, which would maintain mutually beneficial relations with all countries [2]. Strictly observing the principles and norms of international law recognized by the international community, in accordance with the Declaration on principles that govern the mutual relations between member states of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation between states, the UN General Assembly adopted on 24 October 1970 and the Declaration on the Principles governing relations reciprocal of the CSCE participating States Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki in 1975, Moldova will achieve its foreign policy based on the following principles: not having to force or threat of force, settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, non-interference in internal affairs other countries, international cooperation and equal rights of peoples and their right to decide their fate sovereign equality of states, fulfilling its obligations in good faith, the inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms .

In addition to the principles set out in the „Concept” the more directions are given under which Moldova will promote its foreign policy. These may be listed:

1. Development of bilateral interstate relations which will focus on:
 - a) Relations with CIS countries;
 - b) Relations with the countries of Europe and North America;
 - c) Relations with the countries of Asia, Africa and America.
2. Development of multilateral interstate relations focused on:
 - a) Activity within the UN and other international universal organizations
 - b) Regional and sub regional cooperation.
3. Cultural and scientific International cooperation.

Among the main objectives of foreign policy at that time there are included the development of relations with CIS countries.

Also, as priorities for the Republic of Moldova are the bilateral relations with the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus [3]. The nature of relations depends largely on political stability and economic and

political success reforms in our country. Under the existence of economic and spiritual relationships, the Republic of Moldova will maintain and develop ties of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation with Central Asia and Caucasus countries - members of the CCI.

Our country will promote a policy of active cooperation within the CIS, in order to maintain peace and security both within the territory of the Community, as well as in the context of maintaining peace and security in Europe and worldwide [4]. Republic of Moldova will seek to deepen cooperation between CIS countries on respect for human rights field and norms of international law. Colliding with a range of economic issues, our country stands for an effective collaboration with CIS member states to overcome economic crisis, economic and trade relations development with them, on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, and believes the final aim of this collaboration to create a common economic space, based on market economy principles.

A major and future goal of foreign policy and of the Republic of Moldova is a gradual integration into the European Union. For the Republic of Moldova there are important relations with the countries of Central and Western Europe, which is very important because of their geographical position, economic potential, international prestige and the role of states in maintaining and strengthening peace, stability and security on the continent, also the support from Republic of Moldova in their socio-economic reforms promotion, strengthening its independence and integration into European and global structures [5].

Another important direction is to establish and develop bilateral relations with countries of Eastern Europe [6]. The experience of these countries in reforming the political system, building the rule of law and democratic transition to a market economy presents a particular interest for the Republic of Moldova. Our country has common interests with the Eastern European countries for its integration into international structures and maintaining security on the continent. A special place in relations with the countries of the Baltic States is common history, similar interests and problems. There are no neglected relations with Scandinavia which will gain new impetus, primarily on economic and commercial plan.

In relations with the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the Republic of Moldova will develop and diversify bilateral cooperation with Japan, China, Iran, Korea, Republic of South Africa, Egypt, Mexico, Brazil and others. Relations with these countries should boost investments in the Moldovan economy, would contribute to the implementation of new technologies that would help the industrial development of our state, would diversify international relations and reinforce our country's economic positions [7]. Also, the Republic of Moldova does not exclude establishing and maintaining links with other countries on these continents in cases when national interests require it.

One of the main trends of the Republic of Moldova is the regional and sub regional cooperation. Especially through regional and sub regional cooperation our state will strengthen and will ensure its independence, national interests more effectively. A primary direction of foreign policy and national interest of the Republic of Moldova at the regional level is the activity within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which in future may contribute to our country's integration into the European Community and to more complete use of OSCE mechanisms to ensure its foreign policy.

Adhering to the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, 1994 - OSCE) on 30 January 1992 and signing on February 26, 1992 of the Helsinki Final Agreement, the Republic of Moldova showed that directs its efforts towards building a free and democratic state, the path optimum security and prosperity are the opening to international cooperation and integration in European structures. On 4 February 1993 the OSCE Mission in Chisinau was established.

An important event for our country in reaching European standards in building the rule of law is its adherence on 13 June 1995 to the Council of Europe. The fact that Moldova became the first state in the CIS as a member EC is, in fact, a realization of its foreign policy. Becoming a full member of the Council of Europe, Moldova has pledged to implement reforms to ensure the rule of law, freedom and fundamental human rights, social welfare and protection of private property. Ensuring political and economic pluralism, the creation of judicial system of the nation, ensuring the impartiality of judicial institutions, continuous development of civil society - all these are obvious elements required to operate to promote human rights and universal human values nationwide. They have already become recognized and successes registered by the Republic of Moldova in harmonizing national legislation with the Council of Europe standards.

The Republic of Moldova will intensify its work in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the North Atlantic Assembly. In the context of cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), our

country attaches special importance in terms of strengthening national security, regional and international activities under the program „Partnership for Peace”. Thus, the first contacts with NATO were established after the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Moldova on 27 August 1991. In the first meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) on 20 December 1992 in Brussels, our country became a member of the NACC [8].

Joined on 16 March 1994 in the „Partnership for Peace”, our state, being the 12th country to join the program as a partner, has demonstrated its commitment to NATO that strives for peace and security in Europe. Relations have evolved gradually, becoming marked by a spirit of practical cooperation, trust and further development, Moldova participated in a series of military activities: under the „military-military” in 1993, the International Military Education (IMET) as well as a number of projects developed in cooperation with states such as Romania, Ukraine, Belarus. The current international situation requires new active behavior to Moldova, responsive to events taking place in the political arena [9].

Another important direction for achieving its foreign policy, the Republic of Moldova considers cooperation at the sub regional level. Starting from the vicinity of the Black Sea and Danube Basin, the Republic of Moldova will actively collaborate in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). Thus, on 25 June 1992 at the initiative of Turkey government and as a result of meeting in Istanbul, together with other 10 countries participating in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Georgia, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine), the Republic of Moldova signed the Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation, thus becoming a founding member of BSEC. By signing this Declaration the Republic of Moldova has, and must have, as a goal the country's participation to building a new Europe and its integration as an equal partner in the new European structure, the establishment a relation system with the international community, which would ensure stability and its economic, political and social prosperity.

Republic of Moldova stated its decision to use as better possibilities for expanding and intensifying cooperation with countries from the region say that principle. Becoming a member to the BSEC, Moldova can participate in the process of identifying, developing and carrying out projects of common interest in the fields of transport and agro-industry, science and technology, tourism. However, the Republic of Moldova will benefit investments and capital flows, industrial cooperation through the promotion and protection of investment [10].

Becoming a full member of Central European Initiative (CEI) in 1996, the Republic of Moldova will try to deepen its relations with the European Union through a partnership at the political level and developing friendly relations and cooperation between Member States [11].

An important event of the Republic of Moldova activity has accession to the cooperation process in South-East Europe (PSEE) on 4 May 2006, and by signing in 10 October 2006 of the Charter of good neighbourhood, stability, security and cooperation in South-East Europe, becomes a full member of this political forum. The Republic of Moldova activity in PSEE focuses on enhancing the stability, security and good neighbourhood relations, deepening economic and trade relations, infrastructure modernization, communications and energy, investment promotion, cooperation in humanitarian field, as well as social and cultural in juridical field, combating organized crime and the illicit trafficking of drugs and arms, combating international terrorism.

Being the successor of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SPSEE) and serving as operational support of the PSEE, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) is based on its work to improve the partnership between participating states. Also RCC has the mission to facilitate European integration and / or Euro-Atlantic states from the Southeast Europe, including Moldova.

Adhering in 2007 to the Free Trade Agreement in Central Europe (FTACE), Moldova joined its efforts to build a free trade zone in Central and Southeast Europe until 31 December 2010. At the same time, it aimed to strengthen its and to create a market economy in conditions of European integration option.

As a result of awareness of common interests and goals with those of Georgia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan, Moldova became a founding member on 10 October 1997 of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM. The objectives of this organization were focusing on the development and implementation of projects in economic, trade, transport, communications, financial cooperation, border, customs, and scientific field.

Also for our country are important the multilateral interstate relations (Section 2) within the universal international organizations, as well as of regional and sub regional organizations. Moldova's participation in international organizations creates real opportunities for collaboration with almost all countries in the multilateral interstate relations. The membership quality of these organizations complement and expand bilateral and regional mechanisms to achieve national interests, access to global experience, to information, statistics, expert services, sources of technical and financial assistance.

International organizations can help to boost activity and increasing the role and influence of the Republic of Moldova in the world. The main direction of activity of the Republic of Moldova in international organizations is to participate in United Nations (UN) and its specialized institutions. The Republic of Moldova adheres to UN on 2 March 1992 the UN General Assembly Resolution 46 ASG 1223. This significant event occurred in less than a year since Moldova declared its independence and released itself on the transition to a prosperous and developed society. From this moment several UN agencies have begun their activity in our country. It should be noted that assistance programs have significant results in several important areas for the Republic of Moldova. Significant problems were registered in combating poverty, achieving democratic processes and governance efficiency, private sector development, child rights protection, health reforms, assistance to refugees and displaced persons as well as in other areas.

As a member of the UN, our country put efforts on increasing its activity in structures of peace keeping and world order, pays a great importance to this peacekeeping organization for settling and preventing regional, local and international conflicts, and strive for increasing the effectiveness of the UN sanction mechanisms, whose purpose is the more active involvement of organization to resolve problems related to maintaining world peace and security, real disarmament, environmental protection.

For economic, technical, scientific and cultural development Moldova will use the experience and resources of IMF, the World Bank, UNDP, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other UN organizations and its specialized agencies. In this respect all the efforts of the Republic of Moldova will be channeled to use the UN opportunities as well as its specialized institutions for financial and advisory support which are organized within the country, the economic and cultural development and international cooperation in this field.

Recognition of the Republic of Moldova on the international arena has been the main issue of its foreign policy. Moldova is recognized by over 180 states; with 150 already of them are established diplomatic relations. In order to make efficient its interstate relations, there were opened more than 25 embassies, 35 diplomatic representations of foreign states and international organizations activate in Chisinau.

Finally, we note that a separate modality of international cooperation in the context of foreign policy, regional security cooperation already was developed by the end sec. XXI, acquired different connotations, depending on the interest to which it is directed to serve them. It was one of the basic forms of interstate relations that aim to address questions of political, economic, cultural, scientific, technological and conflict issue, as the term a priori in this paper. We highlight the fact that regional cooperation is often confused with foreign policies at the regional level, but the terms are not synonymous. In this respect, Moldova's foreign policy, on the other hand, sets goals, prescribes strategies and specific measures should be used to attain them. It can use secret agents, subversive actions, can declare war or impose their views through other violent actions, but at the same time, can use and peaceful cooperation, the only non-violent way to achieve its goals. Regional security system is therefore the country's main substitute for peaceful use of external actions against to the space where it could be used to force or subversive tactics, it is the tools of peaceful and peacemaker where two or more countries within a region negotiate a common foreign security policy.

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