

National Security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova

Vision of the President of the Republic of Moldova

The citizens of the Republic of Moldova have repeatedly expressed their unwavering determination to live in a democratic and pluralistic society, wherein the state operates in the best interests of all its citizens. The Vision of the President of the Republic of Moldova on the state security sector (hereinafter referred to as the "Vision") reflects this resolve and underscores the national commitment to becoming a democratic and prosperous European country, where its people live in safety and peace.

This Vision constitutes an integral component of the National Security Strategy.

The fundamental element of the Vision is the transformation of the Republic of Moldova into a high performance economy, protected by a modern national security system, supported by robust government institutions, and a public service held to high standards of accountability, integrity, and efficiency. For the implementation of this Vision, collaboration with our country's development partners will be actively pursued.

In order to fulfil the Vision, the following will be pursued:

- *relentless support for the values of representative democracy, built on equality and freedom, respect for human dignity, and the rule of law;*
- *promotion of a vibrant and fully engaged civil society, while cultivating a close partnership between state institutions, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the Moldovan diaspora;*
- *development and reform of law enforcement and justice institutions based on the principles of respect for fundamental human rights;*
- *diligent preparation of the country for accession to the European Union by the horizon of 2030, by proactively fulfilling the necessary requirements;*
- *development of a professional and modern security and defense system, adequately funded to effectively safeguard national security;*
- *strengthening civilian control over the entire security system.*

Aspirations

The Republic of Moldova sees its future as:

- a consolidated, protected, prosperous, democratic state, where all citizens can freely realize their full individual potential;
- a state that safeguards the fundamental rights, ensures security, and provides favorable conditions for meeting the needs of its citizens;
- a state that exercises full control over its internationally recognized territory;
- a member state of the European Union contributing, within the scope of its available resources, to the advancement and sustainability of the European project;
- a state that protects the environment and contributes to the preservation of nature for future generations.

Challenges: assessment, implications, and imperatives

Europe is undergoing profound political, economic, and security transformations that will shape the future of both the continent and the Republic of Moldova for decades to come. Sustainable security, peace, and prosperity in the Republic of Moldova can only be ensured through a collaborative and continuous effort involving state institutions, civil society, the private sector, and all the citizens from both within the country and diaspora.

These national aspirations are being asserted in the most perilous regional security environment since independence. The European continent is shaken by the biggest armed conflict in the past 75 years. Through the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Federation seeks the destruction of Ukrainian statehood and nationhood, and consequently - to expand its territorial possessions. However, Moscow's ambitions are not limited to Ukraine alone. The aggressive policy of the Russian Federation has strong regional implications. Consequently, the imperative for accelerated capacity-building in the defense and security system of the Republic of Moldova takes on the nature of an urgent strategic necessity.

The Republic of Moldova has been profoundly affected by the unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. An unprecedented flow of refugees continues to be recorded. Traditional freight transport routes have been significantly affected. These have been exacerbated by deliberate actions of

the Russian Federation to weaken the Republic of Moldova, aimed at eventually taking political and economic control of the country.

The Russian Federation has sought, by use of force, to carve out a land corridor to the Republic of Moldova. It has resorted to energy blackmail, substantially reducing natural gas deliveries to our country, in order to put pressure on the Government and the whole society. It has undertaken actions to destabilize the country through cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, as well as actions to disrupt public order. As well, the Russian Federation has meddled in the electoral processes in the Republic of Moldova in order to influence or distort their outcome.

In pursuing these hostile actions, the Russian Federation has frequently leveraged the support and contribution of local proxies - corrupt politicians, fugitive oligarchs, and members of the criminal world.

The Republic of Moldova will continue to stand up to these challenges.

For a very long time, a series of vulnerabilities were tolerated, which the Russian Federation exploited against the Republic of Moldova: illegal financing of political parties, quasi-monopolies in the economy and on the media market, corruption within the law enforcement and the justice system, limited transport infrastructure, insufficient interconnectivity with the European electric energy market, significant reliance of the agricultural sector on the Russian market, lack of a coherent policy regarding national minorities and ethnic groups, as well as weak public institutions.

It is evident that the Russian Federation will not abandon its hostile actions against the Republic of Moldova any time soon. Therefore, must learn to live in the conditions of a prolonged and high-intensity hybrid war. The Republic of Moldova must persistently develop and strengthen its immunity to hybrid threats.

In addition to regional and national security challenges, the Republic of Moldova must remain vigilant against a large number of global threats and risks, such as climate change, pandemics, and developments in the field of transformative technologies. Actions aimed at understanding and preparing for these challenges must be included in national contingency plans, to enhance the state's resilience in the future.

At the same time, the most critical strategic imperatives stand on fighting corruption and ensuring the rule of law. The successful outcome of these efforts is

indispensable for reestablishing the trust of citizens and building robust and enduring government institutions.

From vision to reality

A strong defense and security system is essential for the protection of the population and national economy, thereby creating preconditions for economic growth. Without robust defense and security capabilities, the development of the economy, the provision of public services, the protection of infrastructure and the resilience of critical structures cannot be guaranteed. Foreign investors cannot be attracted and retained in the country, and citizens from the diaspora cannot be brought back home. Peace and stability are necessary for planning, building, investing, and harvesting the fruits of labor. Security must be recognized as a common good in which we invest together and from which we collectively benefit.

Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine highlights the critical need to increase investment in the national defense sector which, for too long, has been mismanaged, neglected and underfunded. To deter external attacks and ensure national defense, the Republic of Moldova needs modern, properly equipped, sustainable, and well-trained Armed Forces, with a high degree of interoperability with external partners.

To adequately protect the country, the Armed Forces must be funded in line with the requirements of ensuring the continuous sufficiency of the state's defense. This objective will be secured through a progressive augmentation of investments in defense, with the aim of achieving a defense budget equivalent to 1% of GDP over the course of this decade. At the same time, in the military realm, we must learn the lessons offered by the war in Ukraine to improve the readiness of the Armed Forces for defensive actions if necessary. Additionally, the frequency of military exercises conducted together with strategic partners needs to be increased.

The civilian security sector institutions have the mission of protecting and serving the citizens. In the framework of the new Strategy, the civilian security sector will prioritize, above all, the needs of citizens and aim to increase public trust in these institutions.

Lately, the Republic of Moldova has been facing an increasing array of emerging threats from diverse origins within a complex security environment. Substantial investments in the civilian security sector are necessary to address these challenges and enhance the level of professionalism of personnel, as well as provide proper equipment with modern technologies. The complexity of security

challenges and their multidimensional nature require not only the strengthening and mobilization of state institutions, but also synergy among them. We need to guarantee coordination, exchange of information and fast and efficient cooperation among institutions.

Settlement of the Transnistrian conflict is an important objective that requires a joint diplomatic, economic, political and social effort. In this regard, we reiterate that there is no other way to settle the Transnistrian conflict than through peaceful means.

The Russian troops illegally stationed in our country must withdraw from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Moldova. Efforts will be made for the progressive and peaceful reintegration of the Transnistrian region into the legal, economic, social, and political framework of the Republic of Moldova. It is important that the benefits of the Republic of Moldova's integration path into the European Union is extended to the inhabitants of the Transnistrian region. The political solution, identified through diplomatic means and with the active participation of the European Union and other strategic partners, must be sustainable, functional, and aligned with the European aspirations of our country.

The Republic of Moldova alone cannot face the complexity of challenges, especially the transnational ones. Therefore, a broad and functional network of partnerships with the most advanced and prosperous democracies in the world is needed.

The European Union is and will remain one of the fundamental pillars of security on the European continent. Therefore, our state's goal of joining the European Union is not only related to the imperatives of modernization and economic development but also to comprehensive security. The development of bilateral partnerships with the member states of the European Union complements initiatives for cooperation at the community level.

Strengthening the privileged, extensive and multidimensional strategic partnership with Romania in the field of security and defense is essential for achieving the national goal of European Union accession and for ensuring long-term sustainable security.

At the same time, partnerships in the field of national security and defense will be enhanced with France, Germany, Poland, Italy, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Spain. We wish and we are open to initiate similar partnerships with the other EU Members States, as well

as with member states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Ongoing efforts will be invested in the strategic partnership with the United Kingdom and Türkiye.

An independent Ukraine, being a fully integrated member of the European family, is a key element of the Republic of Moldova's national security. Therefore, a close, multisectoral, and long-term partnership will be developed with Ukraine. The Republic of Moldova is and will remain in solidarity with Ukraine. To the extent of available resources, bilateral assistance will be provided, and diplomatic initiatives, both regional and international, that strengthen Ukraine against the military aggression of the Russian Federation will be supported.

The partnership with the United States is also strategic for our national security. The task is to expand and deepen this partnership to harness its potential.

NATO remains one of the cornerstones of security in Europe. Therefore, cooperation with this collective defense alliance will be intensified to strengthen the capabilities of the National Army in protecting the country and its citizens.

The UN stands as an important multilateral institution for upholding the international order. We will maintain an active role as an UN member, aiming to contribute to the reinforcement of the organization's position within the rule-based international system.

To feel secure, we must contribute to regional and international security. To this end, we aim to increasingly act as a *de facto* member of the European Union:

- we will continue to participate in *Solidarity Corridors*, thus supporting global food security;
- we will continue to deploy rescue teams to help countries affected by fires and natural disasters;
- we will enhance our alignment with the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- we will increase our participation in European Union missions and operations, contributing to the peace and stability in EU's neighborhood;
- we will cooperate with the European Union to counter hybrid threats;
- we will align ourselves with the European Union's agenda to combat climate change;
- we will build a profile of an active state and a responsible participant of the international society.

CHAPTER I

General Provisions

1. The regional and global security environment in which the Republic of Moldova operates is undergoing fundamental changes. Within this dynamic context, conventional challenges to national security persist alongside with proliferating new-type threats. At the same time, the profound changes in the security environment provide the Republic of Moldova with new opportunities. Therefore, the National Security Strategy (hereinafter `the Strategy`) serves as a **response to emerging trends** in the security landscape, encompassing both favorable and adverse developments.

2. The Strategy provides an **adaptation guide** to the rapidly evolving security environment, enabling the effective addressing of a comprehensive spectrum of challenges, while harnessing regional and global opportunities to sustainably ensure the national security objectives.

3. The Strategy serves as an **orientation document** for all central and local public authorities vested with responsibilities in the field of national security and defense.

4. The Strategy:

1) defines the *national security objectives*;

2) sets out the guiding *principles* for the efforts to promote and defend the national security objectives;

3) describes the *elements of the global and regional security environment* that are relevant for the national security;

4) identifies the range of *threats, risks and vulnerabilities* that jeopardize national security;

5) establishes *methods* and outlines *courses of action* to prevent, minimize or neutralize challenges to national security.

5. The Strategy addresses national security in a **holistic and multidimensional** way, considering both the diverse nature of security challenges faced by the Republic of Moldova and the variety of coordinated actions on multiple levels required to combat or prevent them.

6. Given that the Republic of Moldova is a candidate state for accession to

the European Union (EU), this Strategy aims at the gradual alignment of Moldova with the provisions of the "Strategic Compass for a stronger EU security and defense in the next decade", approved by the Council of the European Union during its meeting on March 21, 2022.

CHAPTER II

Security Objectives and Principles

7. The advancement and upholding of national security objectives are intended to guarantee the existence, independence, sovereignty, stability and development of the country, and to ensure that all citizens equally enjoy favorable conditions for the pursuit of their individual aspirations, within the constitutional framework.

8. The national security objectives of the Republic of Moldova are:

- 1) defending the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country;
- 2) protecting constitutional democracy;
- 3) guaranteeing the protection of fundamental human rights, the safety of citizens and their property;
- 4) social-economic development of the country;
- 5) maintaining peace;
- 6) fighting corruption;
- 7) joining the EU;
- 8) peaceful reintegration of the Transnistrian region;
- 9) contributing to reestablishing peace and stability in the Black Sea Basin;
- 10) protecting the environment.

9. The principles of the national security policy are the benchmarks that guide the efforts of the competent authorities in the field of state security domestically, as well as in their relationships with external partners.

10. In the pursuit of its national security objectives, the Republic of Moldova is guided by the following principles:

- 1) **Predictability.** The security policy is based on coherence and

transparency regarding the national security objectives and the peaceful nature of their advancement. The Republic of Moldova aims to be a predictable and responsible actor in its relations with external partners.

2) **Adaptability.** The Republic of Moldova is committed to the development of an adaptive response to the ongoing changes in the security environment, through the continuous identification and assessment of threats and risks, as part of a proactive and preventive approach.

3) **Synergy.** The achievement of national security objectives requires mobilization and close cooperation among law enforcement, security and national defense authorities. The 3C model – communication, coordination and collaboration - must become the rule and the national security standard. At the same time, regional security and peace require a joint and coordinated effort among partners with similar visions and objectives. The Republic of Moldova will seek to develop synergy in its security relations with its immediate neighbors and global partners.

4) **Sustainable public-private partnership.** State authorities will act in a spirit of cooperation and coordination with various non-governmental entities (such as civil society, academia, mass media), the private sector, and the diaspora to foster a culture of widely shared security within society and strengthen social cohesion. Only through a collective effort that involves all social segments can be ensured the continuity of the country's strategic course and, thus, sustainable and comprehensive national security.

CHAPTER III

Security Environment

11. The global and regional security environment is marked by a period of **volatility and accelerating transformation.** This dynamic will require constant attention and reassessment by state institutions in order to adjust security and defense policies, enabling the Republic of Moldova to counter national threats and risks in real-time.

Global level

12. At the global level, the following key trends relevant for national security can be detected:

1) ***Intensification of competition among great powers.*** This trend is fueled

by revisionist powers that seek to advocate for the concept of dividing the world into spheres of influence. Consequently, the intensification of competition contributes to the arms race, particularly in the nuclear domain, weakens the regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, undermines the efficacy of international and regional cooperation frameworks, diminishes the effectiveness of multilateral collaboration in countering global warming, preventing, preparing for, and responding to pandemics, as well as combating transnational terrorism and cross-border crime.

2) *Slowdown in economic globalization*. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine, major economic players are reviewing their economic strategies to mitigate risks resulting from potential disruptions of supply chains, attacks on critical infrastructure, industrial espionage, foreign investments in strategic economic sectors and deep economic dependences. To minimize economic risks, major actors reduce exposure to markets, producers and investors that pose a high geopolitical risk and intensify economic links with friendly or partner countries. Thus, international economic relations are increasingly treated through the lens of security logic, leading to the adjustment of global economic ties at the global level.

3) *Acceleration of climate change*. Global warming is accelerating, leading to an increased number of extreme weather events - heavy rainfall, prolonged droughts, heat-waves above previously observed norms, etc. All of these have a negative impact on available water resources, global crop yields, the transport and energy sectors, as well as public health. Unless national and international actions are taken, global warming might put humanity's existence at risk.

4) *Rapid progress in the development and use of transformative technologies*, such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, quantum technologies and biotechnologies. These have the potential to significantly improve the quality of life and public services. At the same time, transformative technologies increase the destructive potential of state and non-state malign actors in the cyber, economic, informational, social and military domains.

Regional level

13. At the regional level, the following key trends relevant to national security can be detected:

1) **The resurgence of high-intensity warfare in Europe**. The full scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has triggered a war in Europe of a

magnitude and intensity unprecedented in the past seven decades. This reality destabilizes the entire region, directly threatens the national security of the Republic of Moldova, and has numerous political, social and economic effects on the country in the short and medium term. An eventual reduction of the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine, resulting from a hypothetical military defeat by Russia, poses an existential threat to the survival of the Republic of Moldova as an independent, sovereign, and democratic state.

2) **Economic decoupling of the EU from Russia.** Amidst the war in Ukraine, there is a swift dissolution of longstanding bilateral economic ties between the EU and Russia. The most rapid disentanglement of the EU from Russia is observed in the areas of energy and the transfer of advanced technology. This process, on one hand, speeds up the transition from fossil energy resources to renewable energy resources in the EU, while, on the other hand, it widens the technological gap between the EU and Russia.

3) **Increased centrality of the EU and NATO.** The role of the two institutions in ensuring security in Europe has expanded and will remain paramount, at least in this decade. Both organizations are undergoing internal transformations that deepen intra and inter-institutional integration and cooperation. The EU and NATO have been demonstrating increased complementarity in providing security in Europe. Meanwhile, NATO maintains the "open-door" policy, and the EU revitalizes the enlargement process by recognizing the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine as candidate states.

4) **Tendency to renounce or revise neutrality by certain states.** States neighboring the Russian Federation, with a longstanding tradition of neutrality, are giving up this stance and joining the NATO military alliance to safeguard their national security through collective defense. As well, neutral states in Central Europe, which are not confronted with the immediate threat from Russian Federation, increase resources to modernize their defense sector and/or associate themselves for the first time with joint sectoral defense initiatives, such as the European Sky Shield Initiative. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is the main drive behind these processes.

5) **Insecurity in the Black Sea basin.** The aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has significantly increased the level of insecurity in the Black Sea region and substantially impacted maritime economic activities, which has a direct impact on the economic interests of the Republic of Moldova. Multilateral regional cooperation formats are weakened and security issues (armed

conflicts, regional rivalries, mining of sectors in the Black Sea, dangerous interceptions of airplanes in the airspace over the Black Sea, arms and drug trafficking, etc.) have come to the forefront.

CHAPTER IV

Security Threats, Risks and Vulnerabilities

14. The Strategy **identifies threats, risks and vulnerabilities** that affect or may affect national security, with the aim of developing an effective policy to counteract or prevent their manifestation.

15. In order to respond effectively to the identified threats, risks, and vulnerabilities, the Supreme Security Council will **periodically** conduct an **analysis** of the security situation.

16. The Republic of Moldova is facing challenges to its security that **manifest simultaneously across multiple dimensions**. These challenges are often interconnected, and their intensity and scale of risk are constantly evolving. A holistic approach to national security is therefore needed to counter them.

17. Vectors for proliferation of threats and risks to national security are both **within and outside the country**. There is often a symbiotic interaction between the two, which increases the danger to national security.

18. The **Russian Federation and its proxies** in the Republic of Moldova represent the most dangerous and persistent source of threat which, if not countered, can have severe effects on the statehood, democracy and prosperity of the country.

19. The Republic of Moldova faces the following **threats** to its national security:

1) The **military aggression** of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the ambition of the Russian government to militarily establish a land corridor towards the Republic of Moldova, which would set up conditions for the violent change of the constitutional order and the liquidation of our statehood;

2) **Hybrid operations** conducted by the Russian Federation against the Republic of Moldova in the political, economic, energy, social, informational, cyber areas, etc., aiming to undermine the constitutional order, derail the European course of the country and/or disintegrate the state;

3) The **illegal military presence** of the Russian Federation in the Transnistrian region and its control over the separatist structures;

4) **Corruption** and kleptocratic practices;

5) Organized and/or cross-border **crime**, in particular financial crimes, illicit arms and drugs smuggling, and human trafficking;

6) Accelerating **climate change** as a result of global warming.

20. The security of the Republic of Moldova may be exposed to the following **risks**:

1) **Military:**

a) Re-escalation of chronic conflicts in neighboring States in the Black Sea Region;

b) Use of weapons of mass-destruction in the vicinity of the country;

c) Proliferation of weapons of mass-destruction and smuggling of weapons of mass destruction materials..

2) **Economic:**

a) Regional or global economic crises;

b) Infiltration of organized crime into the national economy.

3) **Cyber:**

a) Cyber-attacks launched by foreign state actors on the national and regional critical infrastructure;

b) Cyber-attacks launched on public or private institutions by structures specialized in cybercrime;

c) Risks associated with developments in information and communication technologies, such as *blockchain* technology and cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence, machine learning, the Internet of Things, 5G technology, *big data*, quantum technologies, and the dark web.

4) **Ecological:**

a) Major industrial incidents or disasters in the country or in the

neighborhood, involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear substances;

b) Natural phenomena with cross-border impact on the country or in the neighboring areas, such as earthquakes, droughts, storms, floods or large-scale fires.

5) *Agri-food:*

a) Infrastructure projects in the neighborhood, that limit access to water sources;

b) Disruption of food supply chains.

6) *Health:*

a) Pandemics and epidemics;

b) Proliferation and spread of antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

7) *Other types of risks:*

a) Emergence and amplification of radical, irredentist, or extremist manifestations;

b) Terrorist activities.

21. The Republic of Moldova faces multiple **vulnerabilities**, which are or may be exploited by internal and external malign actors, such as:

1) *In the military security and national defense field:*

a) Insufficiently equipped Armed Forces;

b) Reduced support for the national defense within the population.

2) *In the public order and security field:*

a) Lack of central authorities' control over a part of sovereign territory;

b) Lack of an integrated crisis management mechanism;

c) Lack of an early warning system for the population;

d) Reduced reaction capacity in case of a nuclear, chemical, biological, or radiological accident.

3) *In the social policy field:*

- a) Limited administrative capacity of public institutions;
- b) Incompletely reformed law-enforcement and justice system;
- c) Weak integration of national minorities and ethnic groups;
- d) High level of poverty among the population;
- e) Economic and social disparities.

4) ***In the economic field:***

- a) Limited transport infrastructure and connectivity with immediate neighbors;
- b) (Asymmetric) dependence of domestic agricultural producers on the Russian market;
- c) Precipitous demographic decline.

5) ***In the energy field:***

- a) Insufficient direct interconnection with the European energy market;
- b) Insufficient domestic capacity for electric energy and heat production;
- c) Persistent dependence on electricity from the Transnistrian region;
- d) High energy intensity, well above the European average;
- e) Limited use of renewable energy.

6) ***In the information field:***

- a) Excessive concentration of assets in the media market;
- b) Long-term exposure of society to disinformation spread by malign actors through traditional and digital mass media;
- c) Lack of a security culture and low levels of media literacy among citizens, as well as weak institutional capacities to counter disinformation.

7) ***In the cybernetic field:***

- a) Outdated IT equipment in the public institutions;

b) Low level of cyber hygiene amongst public servants and population.

8) *In the environment field:*

a) Degradation of the environment, as a result of economic activities, namely those affecting the quality of water, soil and air;

b) Low level of environment education of the population;

c) Degradation and continuous pollution of water resources;

d) Low resilience to climate change;

e) Limited waste management capacity.

CHAPTER V

Methods and Lines of Actions in Security Domains

22. Given the wide and diverse range of threats, risks and vulnerabilities, the Republic of Moldova needs to embrace an **integrated and anticipatory** approach to ensure its national security and resilience.

23. The integrated approach involves the ability of state institutions to **combine collected information** and **analyze** the entire spectrum of challenges, as well as the capacity for **complementary** and/or **simultaneous** action to prevent or mitigate negative effects. The integrated approach has to enhance significantly the state institutions' capacity to deal holistically with hybrid threats.

24. The anticipatory approach involves the ability of state institutions to envisage **various scenarios** of how threats and risks may manifest themselves as well as capacity to **act proactively in order to prevent or reduce** the costs of negative scenarios.

25. The integrated and anticipatory approaches aim to more **effectively** protecting the citizens, as well as **raise the level of national resilience**. In the case of crises or shocks, the Republic of Moldova must be prepared to rapidly overcome their effects and to re-establish the functionality of essential services if they had been disrupted.

26. Without disclosing restricted information, actions to ensure national security and resilience have to be **accompanied by public communication campaigns** that explain, in an easy-to-understand manner, the rationale behind the actions, the threats or risks being countered, interim results, or expected outcomes

at the conclusion of an action or a series of measures. These communication campaigns should be continuous, with their ultimate goal being the cultivation and promotion of the concept of security culture in the Republic of Moldova, both within public institutions and among civil society.

27. EU accession is a multidimensional process that addresses most public domains, strategically important for consolidating democracy, economic development, strengthening security, and enhancing national resilience.

28. In order to achieve the national security and defense objectives, and at the same time to combat threats, risks and vulnerabilities, the Strategy sets out the following **lines of action**:

1) *Military security and national defense*:

a) Developing the defense potential of the Republic of Moldova by building modern, professional Armed Forces, endowed with modern equipment and advanced technologies;

b) Consolidating the strategic credibility of the Republic of Moldova by ensuring a gradual growth of the budget allocations for the national defense, with the objective to reach 1% of the GDP during the current decade;

c) Updating policy documents, relevant legal acts, the structure of the national defense system, and the training system, based on the lessons learned from the Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine;

d) Preparing and progressively integrating the country into the European Union's defense structures and initiatives;

e) Deepening the privileged multidimensional strategic security and defense partnership with Romania;

f) Developing and deepening security and defense partnerships with France, Germany, Poland, Italy, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain;

g) Developing and consolidating defense and security partnerships with the United States, the United Kingdom and Türkiye;

h) Developing and deepening the security and defense partnership with Ukraine;

i) Advancing and strengthening the cooperation with NATO.

2) *Public order and security:*

- a) Reforming law enforcement institutions;
- b) Harmonization of national legislation and policies with European norms in the field of combating financial crime, organized crime, and corruption;
- c) Allocating adequate resources, material and financial means to develop infrastructure and procure specialized equipment needed in the fight against organized crime, cyber-crime and corruption;
- d) Developing the civil protection system in conformity with the EU principles and policies;
- e) Developing capacities and instruments of protection of injured persons;
- f) Full integration into the European Union security and public order mechanisms and initiatives;
- g) Building of the administrative capacity of the institution responsible for operational and strategic analysis of financial information and combating money laundering in order to identify cross-border threats and money flows linked to organized crime;
- h) Strengthening institutions responsible for financial investigations, illicit assets seizure and recovery, as well as strengthening tracking, freezing and seizure procedures;
- i) Securing state borders to prevent and combat illegal migration, human and arms trafficking, smuggling, and other forms of cross-border crimes;
- j) Establishing and developing a national mechanism of integrated crisis management;
- k) Consolidation of national capacities to mitigate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks and combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- l) Enhancing the efficiency of operational staff work to improve prevention and immediate response capacity through the development of procedures and standards aligned with the European public order concept;
- m) Developing and implementing information and education programs to increase citizens' awareness and involvement in preventing and combating

organized crime and corruption.

3) *Democratic resilience:*

a) Implementing strategic communication campaigns to promote democracy;

b) Consolidation of trust in state institutions through promoting transparency;

c) Accelerating justice reform;

d) Enhancing of the capacity of the Central Electoral Commission;

e) Improving legal mechanisms to combat illegal financing of political parties and electoral corruption;

f) Enhancing mechanisms to protect the financial system from unlawful financial flows targeted at undermining rule of law and constitutional order;

g) Strengthening the financial sanctions regime with the objective of mitigating the impact of external influences and corruption;

h) Improving the quality and reducing the duration of criminal prosecution in cases involving organized crime, economic crimes, and corruption;

i) increasing awareness of the business environment regarding risks of (unwilling) involvement in, and facilitation of, unlawful activities of organized crime;

j) Improving methods of protecting activists and whistleblowers;

k) Improving integration policies of national minorities and ethnic groups;

l) Improving mechanisms of combatting poverty and reducing economic gaps.

4) *Information security and resilience:*

a) Developing and consolidating the national institution responsible for strategic communication and countering disinformation;

b) Ensuring competitiveness, ownership transparency, and sustainability of independent media;

c) Developing cooperation between public institutions, civil society and

mass media to counter malign information influences;

d) Reducing internal and external kleptocratic influence in the domestic media environment;

e) Strengthening the communication capabilities of state institutions;

f) Implementing measures to protect investigative journalism;

g) Developing media literacy and critical thinking through formal and non-formal educational programs;

h) Ensuring opportunities for objective information and integration in the domestic information environment for the national minorities and ethnic groups;

i) Running communication campaigns to promote the EU accession process, the social cohesion, and the national security.

5) *Economic security and resilience:*

a) Promoting a prudent fiscal-budgetary policy;

b) Actively integrating into the European transport infrastructure and transport market;

c) Harmonizing national legislation with EU legislation in the field of critical entities resilience;

d) Developing infrastructure and increasing state border crossing points;

e) Aligning the integrated border management to EU standards;

f) Comprehensive modernization of railway infrastructure to increase train speeds and cargo volumes;

g) Extensive modernization of road infrastructure, creating opportunities for the increase of the speed of freight and passenger transportation, while respecting safety standards;

h) Gaining access to global markets for domestic agricultural producers;

i) Improving transparency of financial assets.

6) *Energy security and resilience:*

a) Harmonizing national legislation with the European legislation in the

energy field;

b) strengthening energy security by increasing interconnection capacity with EU member states within the European energy system in order to ensure energy supply continuity and diversification, as well as to guarantee the annual creation of strategic reserves of fuels and natural gas;

c) Ensuring a continuous strategic reserve of natural gas, petroleum products, and other fuels;

d) Modernizing and adapting the national energy infrastructure for transportation of natural gas and other types of fuels;

e) Modernizing and expanding capacities for thermal and electric energy production, including from renewable sources;

f) Developing and implementing energy crisis management protocols;

g) Implementing energy consumption efficiency, education, and awareness programs;

h) Developing and deepening energy partnerships with EU members states and members of the Energy Community.

7) *Reintegration of the state:*

a) Undertaking diplomatic actions to achieve the withdrawal of Russian troops illegally stationed on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Moldova and transforming the existing peace keeping mechanism into an international civilian mission;

b) Undertaking diplomatic actions to finalize the process of evacuating ammunition from the Transnistrian region and/or disposal of munitions, as necessary, under international supervision;

c) Formulating and implementing necessary actions towards the gradual reintegration of the Transnistrian region within the economic, legal, informational, political, and social space of the Republic of Moldova;

d) Utilizing the European integration process of the Republic of Moldova to increase the attractiveness for the peaceful reintegration of the country among the population of the Transnistrian region;

e) Enhancing the role of the EU and other strategic partners in the conflict settlement process.

8) *Cyber-security and resilience:*

a) Establishing a competent national institution in the field of cyber-security, along with the development of the normative, strategic, and institutional cooperation framework defining the responsibilities and contributions of each institution;

b) Developing forms of public-private cooperation to ensure cyber-security;

c) Improving the secure state communication systems;

d) Modernizing the IT infrastructure of public institutions, introducing a biometric identity verification system in line with European standards, and implementing data protection and security processes;

e) Developing cyber-security and cyber-defense plans for critical infrastructure and entities;

f) Organizing nation-wide cyber hygiene education program for civil servants, students and pupils.

g) Organizing and participating in cyber-security and cyber defense exercises;

h) Strengthening dialogue and cooperation in the cyber-security field with the EU;

i) Participating and/or aligning with EU regulations in the field of transformative technologies.

9) *Agri-food security and resilience:*

a) Adopting public policies to protect soils, water, and biodiversity to ensure sustainable use of agricultural resources;

b) Advancing the cultivation of crop varieties to ensure food diversity and minimize the risks associated with single crop reliance;

c) Consolidating the agricultural infrastructure and strategic food storage systems;

d) Developing an efficient monitoring and early warning system for the rapid identification and management of food crisis situations;

e) Cooperating with other countries and international organizations to

exchange information, expertise and support in the development and implementation of agri-food security policies and programs.

10) Environmental security and resilience:

- a) Implementing the EU environmental protection legislation and policies;
- b) Expanding protected areas and improving measures to protect them;
- c) Implementing the National Afforestation Program;
- d) Developing an integrated waste and chemicals management system;
- e) Improving of the quality of surface and groundwater, protection, and sustainable management of water resources;
- f) Protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of biodiversity and natural ecosystems;
- g) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- h) Promotion of regional and international cooperation for the collective addressing of challenges related to global warming, as well as the exchange of best practices and expertise in environmental protection.

11) *Regional and international security:*

- a) Participation in EU missions and operations within the Common Security and Defense Policy;
- b) Alignment with the EU common positions in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- c) Provision of bilateral and multilateral support to Ukraine to restore lasting peace and rebuild the country;
- d) Participation in international peacekeeping missions under the auspices of NATO and the UN;
- e) Participation in and support for the multilateral activities of the UN to promote a world order based on the norms of international law;
- f) Participation in regional efforts to restore peace and stability in the Black Sea region;
- g) Participation in international organizations and initiatives to combat transborder crime.

CHAPTER VI

Final Provisions

29. The Strategy serves as a basis for the elaboration, completion, or modification of laws and other normative acts in the field of national security and defense. Additionally, the Strategy serves as a reference document for the elaboration, including the modification, of sectoral strategies and programs containing regulations related to the field of national security and defense.

30. The Strategy is adopted for a period of 6 years. Depending on the scope and speed of developments at the global, regional, or national levels, the Strategy is subject to subsequent review and adaptation for the improvement and efficiency of policies in the field of security and defense.

31. The uniform application and monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy are the responsibility of the Supreme Security Council. Central and local public administration authorities will inform the Supreme Security Council about the implementation of the Strategy. The Supreme Security Council, in turn, will annually inform the Parliament about the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy.