



Follow-up dialogue meeting on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Republic of Moldova

Chișinău, 13 December 2024

Venue: Palatul Republicii Moldova, Maria Cebotari St 16, MD-2012 Chișinău

Background information:

The Republic of Moldova ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) on 20 November 1996. According to the State Register of Population, more than 150 ethnic groups reside on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Organisations defending the interests of *inter alia* the Ukrainian, Gagauz, Russian, Bulgarian, Roma, Jewish, Polish, Belarusian, German, Armenian, Azeri, Georgian, Ossetian, Lithuanian, Estonian, and Greek national minorities continue to form part of the Co-ordinating Council of Ethno-Cultural Organisations set up under the Agency for Interethnic Relations.

States parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), including the Republic of Moldova, have undertaken commitment to support full and effective equality of persons belonging to national minorities in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, together with conditions that will enable them to express, preserve and develop their culture and identity. As part of the FCNM monitoring process, it is evaluated how the states parties implement recommendations to improve the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. [Each monitoring cycle](#) consists of the submission of a report by the state party, monitoring work by the Advisory Committee, and adoption of a resolution by the Committee of Ministers. As a follow-up to dialogue with the Council of Europe on minority issues, an event is usually organised by the state party concerned to address outcomes of the fifth-cycle monitoring. The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention (ACFC) understands the monitoring of the Framework Convention as an open-ended process where each monitoring cycle builds on the previous one. Follow-up meetings form therefore an integral part of the monitoring cycles.

[Follow-up meetings](#) provide a platform for dialogue between the Advisory Committee and a multitude of stakeholders in the state party concerned. They are an opportunity for the Advisory Committee to clarify, where necessary, its position and for the authorities to report progress already achieved in the implementation of the recommendations or envisaged actions. Follow-up meetings help identify, through a dialogue with representatives of national minorities, the most efficient ways of practically implementing these recommendations and give also the possibility for the Advisory Committee to share good practices from its monitoring work. Finally, follow-up dialogue meetings can also serve the purpose to raise awareness about the principles and the provisions of the Framework Convention and the functioning of its monitoring mechanism.

As part of this dialogue, a follow-up meeting on the implementation of the FCNM, **organised by the Agency for Interethnic Relations, is held in Chișinău on 13 December 2024**. During the event, experts of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention, the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, national and local authorities, and representatives of national minorities will discuss recommendations adopted by the Advisory Committee in its [Fifth Opinion on the Republic of Moldova](#), adopted on 7 June 2023 (also available in [Romanian](#), [Russian](#) and [Ukrainian](#)), as well as recommendations to the Moldovan authorities contained in the [Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/ResCMN\(2024\)1](#), adopted on 10 January 2024, and more broadly, ways to strengthen protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities in the Republic of Moldova.

ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

08:30 – 09:00 **Arrival in Palatul Republicii Moldova and registration of participants**

09:00 – 09:20 **OPENING REMARKS, PRESENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING**

- **Veaceslav Reabcinschii**, Director General of the Agency for Interethnic Relations Government of the Republic of Moldova (10' max)
- **Falk Lange**, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Chişinău (5' max)
- **Elise Cornu**, Head of the National Minorities and Minority Languages Division, Anti-discrimination Department, Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity, Council of Europe: purpose and objectives of the Follow-up meeting (5' max)

09:20 – 10:15 **INTRODUCTORY SESSION: MAIN DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NATIONAL MINORITIES POLICY, INTRODUCTION TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES AND ITS MONITORING PROCEDURE / SUMMARY OF THE FIFTH OPINION ON THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

Moderator: **Elise Cornu, Head of the National Minorities and Minority Languages Division, Council of Europe**

Speakers (discussion):

- **Ian Feldman**, national member of the Advisory Committee elected in respect of the Republic of Moldova: presentation of the Framework Convention, its monitoring mechanism and of the role of the national member
- **Tomáš Hrustič**, member of the Advisory Committee, elected in respect of the Slovak Republic: main findings of the [Fifth Opinion on the Republic of Moldova](#) and recommendations to the Moldovan authorities contained in the [Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/ResCMN\(2024\)1](#) and clarifications vis-à-vis the [comments](#) received from the state authorities
- **Veaceslav Reabcinschii**, Director General of the Agency for Interethnic Relations Government of the Republic of Moldova, main developments concerning the national minority legislation and policy by the state
- **Vitalii Mrug**, Co-chair of Ethno-minority Council, Chair of Ukrainian Community

Questions and answers: The participants may raise brief and concrete questions or request clarifications on the Framework Convention, its scope of application or its monitoring procedure and on the findings of the fifth-cycle monitoring that might not be covered by the three thematic sessions below.

15' coffee break

10:30-12:00 **THEMATIC SESSION 1: ENSURING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES AND DEVELOPING MINORITIES' CULTURES AND LANGUAGES**

Key topics for the discussion: legislative and policy measures for strengthening the teaching in and of minority languages at schools in addition to the Romanian language; improving inclusive and quality education of Roma children; reinforcing the position of Roma community-based mediators and introducing Roma school assistants; ensuring that school curricula and education materials legislative and policy changes necessary to promote the effective protection of minorities' languages and cultures as elements of minorities' identity; and ways to ensure proper funding of all these activities.

Moderator: **Adriana CAZACU, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Research (tbc)**

Speakers:

(10' max) • **Tomáš Hrustič**, member of the Advisory Committee, elected in respect of the Slovak Republic: presents the concerned recommendations. In addition, he and/or the Secretariat will provide information about the main principles of the Framework Convention and some examples of good practices in other States Parties that could be used as sources of inspiration.

Other speakers:

- **Ivan Duminica**, Chief of Political Service in the field of Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Education and Research

- **Natalia Șevciuc**, Chief of the Education Department Edineț

- **Sarsaman Lilia**, Chief of Education Direction, Taraclia district

- **Rodica MARIAN**, Chief of Youth Education and Sports Department, Nisporeni district.

- **Silviana Feraru**, Roma community-based mediator

Questions and answers

buffet lunch break (12:00 – 12:45)

12:45 – 14:15 THEMATIC SESSION 2: COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AFFECTING NATIONAL MINORITIES AND REINFORCING THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONAL BODIES

Key topics for discussion: knowledge about anti-discrimination legislation measures; set up of institutional frameworks and legal remedies against discrimination, including on anti-Roma-racism (antigypsyism); ensuring follow-up to decisions, queries and reports related to national minorities by the Equality Council and The People's Advocate Office; set up of easily accessible legal clinics for the Roma minority.

Moderator: **Nicolae Radița, Deputy General Director of the Agency for Interethnic Relations**

Speakers:

(10' max) • **Tomáš Hrustič**, member of the Advisory Committee, elected in respect of the Slovak Republic, presents the concerned recommendations. In addition, he and/or the Secretariat will provide information about the main principles of the Framework Convention and some examples of good practices in other States Parties that could be used as sources of inspiration.

Other speakers:

- **Lilia Rusu**, Chief of Direction Coordination of Public Policy, Ministry of Justice (tbc)

- **Vladimir Cojocaru**, Secretary General, People's Advocate Office (tbc)

- **Olga Bulimaga**, Secretary General of the Equality Council (tbc)

- **Dumitru Vleju**, Public Order and Security Policy Directorate (tbc)

- **Natalia Brovchina**, Programme Manager, Agudat Israel Association

- **Marin Alla**, Coalition of Roma Voice

Questions and answers

14:15 – 15:30 **THEMATIC SESSION 3: EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL MINORITIES**

Key topics for discussion: legal and institutional challenges, including political ones, for strengthening the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in decision-making processes; ensuring effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities at the level of the ATU Gagauzia.

Moderator: **Michaël Guet**, Secretariat of the Framework Convention, Council of Europe

Speakers:

(10' max) • **Tomáš Hrustič**, member of the Advisory Committee, elected in respect of the Slovak Republic, presents the concerned recommendations. In addition, he and/or the Secretariat will provide information about the main principles of the Framework Convention and some examples of good practices in other States Parties that could be used as sources of inspiration.

Other speakers

- (excused) **Natalia Davidovici**, Member of Parliament
- **Vladimir Ianiev**, Chair of Greek community in Moldova
- **Serghei Anastasov**, Mayor of Comrat city
- **Mihail Peicov**, Executive Director, Civic Initiatives for National Minorities
- **Mihai Rotaru**, Co-chair the national minorities experts group on the platform of national human rights institutions (Equality Council and People's Advocate)
- **Elcin Bairamov**, Chair of the Azeri Congress from Moldova

Questions and answers

15:30 – 15:45 **CONCLUDING REMARKS AND SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE DIALOGUE**

Speakers:

- **Veaceslav Reabcinschii**, Director General of the Agency for Interethnic Relations Government of the Republic of Moldova
- **Tomáš Hrustič**, member of the Advisory Committee, elected in respect of the Slovak Republic
- **Elise Cornu**, Head of the National Minorities and Minority Languages Division, Anti-discrimination Department, Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity, Council of Europe