



29 June 2022

UN Human Rights Council

50th Regular Session, 26 February - 23 March 2018

Agenda Item 6:

Consideration of UPR reports

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Oral Statement of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Promo-LEX Association (Promo-LEX)

Mr. President,

International Federation for Human Rights and Promo-Lex, its member organization in Moldova, welcome the Government for its engagement in the UPR process and support of the recommendations on accelerating the reforms to tackle the issues of overcrowding, condition of detention, and access to prison health care.

Nevertheless, we remain concerned, that the tendency to formulate the general recommendations by the Recommending States is still maintained. Enhancing respect for human rights can be achieved only if the Recommending States make SMART recommendations. According to this, we call upon the Members States, for the next UPR cycle to formulate action-oriented and more precise recommendations to support the State's effective implementation them.

In the same time, we express our gratitude to the Recommending States for sharing their perspectives. We were impressed by the number of participants during the review and by their constructive and encouraging conclusions.

This large number of related recommendations indicates the remaining serious gaps. Despite some slight improvement, prisons remain overcrowded, and access to medical assistance is limited because of inadequate infrastructure and policies, insufficient human and financial resources, and the government's failure to comply with the principle of equivalence of treatment **in** and **outside** prisons. We encourage the Government to implement these recommendations by collaborating closely with civil society, strengthening the legislation, and providing the funding necessary to implement the recommendations effectively.

We also welcome the acceptance of recommendations concerning reducing the prisoner population by ensuing wider application of the alternatives to imprisonment and developing needed legal to protect the rights of the most vulnerable persons.

Despite the great need for improvement concerning the rights of the vulnerable group of people like drug users, criminalizing drug possession for personal use and imposing punitive measures against these vulnerable people have a disproportionate impact on the right to health and overcrowding the prisons. In this regard, we encourage the Government to implement thorough reforms to promote the decriminalization of drug possession for personal use, and change laws and policies to ensure that they comply with Human Rights.

As a vulnerable group of people, drug users must not be left behind.

Thank you!