

**Annex 2 [Note verbale reference: CU 2023/225/DTA/CEB/CSS]**

***“Progress made and challenges encountered in implementing resolution 9/1”***

States parties are invited to provide relevant information in line with paragraph 25 of resolution 9/1, entitled Sharm el-Sheikh declaration on strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery, in which the Conference:

*[Requested] the secretariat to submit to the Conference of the States Parties at its tenth session a report on **progress made and challenges encountered in implementing [resolution 9/1]**<sup>1</sup>.*

**A. Contact Information**

Please provide contact details for potential follow-up questions. Contact details will be treated confidentially.

*Country: Republic of Moldova*

*Government Agency: National Anticorruption Agency (NAC)*

*Department: International Cooperation Directorate*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**B. Questions**

**1. Progress made**

Please describe the measures or steps your country has taken (or is planning to take, together with the related appropriate time frame) to implement operative paragraphs 1 to 21 of resolution 9/1. *Please state the relevant operative paragraphs in your answer.*

**Paragraphs 1:**

With reference to **Paragraph 1. of Resolution 9/1** entitled the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration on Enhancing International Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Corruption in Emergency Situations and in Crisis Response and Recovery, we inform you that the Republic of Moldova implements the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the secretariat has collected information on the implementation of paragraphs 22 and 23 of resolution 9/1 separately.

which in essence are international standards to which must be aligned by each state in the process of establishing and promoting its national anti-corruption policie.

Thus, based on the provisions of Chapter 2 "*Preventive measures*", Article 5 "*Policies and practices to prevent corruption*" of the above-mentioned Convention, which provides that:

*„1. Each State Party shall develop and implement or consider, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, effective and coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, sound management of political affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and responsibility”*, We inform you that the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy for the years 2017-2020 and extended until 2023 (adopted by Parliament Decision No.56/2017, extended by Parliament Decision No.241 of 24.12.2021) is the main public policy document aimed at systematizing and streamlining the efforts of public entities in the field of anti-corruption and strengthening integrity.

The document is interlinked with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is based on the analysis of the national integrity system (NIS) comprising 8 integrity pillars: I. Parliament; II. Government, public sector and local public administration; III. Justice and anti-corruption authorities; IV. Central Electoral Commission and political parties; V. The Court of Auditors; VI. Ombudsman; VII. Private sector; VIII. Civil society and the media.

In this regard, we would like to inform you that the period declared a state of emergency in public health in the Republic of Moldova due to global pandemic situations, essentially influenced to a certain extent the degree of implementation of actions in the NIAS 2017-2020. Thus, in the years 2020/2021 there were some deficiencies and delays in the implementation of actions provided for in the NIAS Action Plan, which were explained by the establishment of the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequently the state of public health emergency on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The areas of action that stagnated were mainly mass activities/meetings (such as: anti-corruption training in state institutions and others). At the same time, the pandemic situation also stagnated the process of reporting on the actions set out in the Strategy's Action Plan, which also led to the extension of the deadline for implementation and completion of the measures proposed in the Strategy. In this regard, Parliament Resolution No. 241 of 24.12.2021 was adopted, which established the extension of the actions of the NIAS 2017-2020 until 2023.

A state of emergency is currently declared in Moldova in connection with the developments of the war on the territory of Ukraine. However, the Secretariat of the Monitoring Group of the National Anti-Corruption Centre, which ensures the effective management of anti-corruption policies by coordinating the process of drafting, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the NIAS Action Plan, has not found that the currently declared state of emergency has any direct impact on the degree of implementation of strategic actions. Thus, the public authorities, at the stage of reporting on the implementation of the Plan, did not invoke such a reason, such as: impossibility or deficiency in the implementation and reporting on the actions of the Plan due to the state of emergency declared at national level.

### **Paragraphs 2,9,10:**

According to Law no.325/2013 institutional integrity assessment is a process of identifying corruption risks within the public entity using analytical and practical methods (professional integrity testing), describing the factors that determine the identified risks and their

consequences, as well as providing recommendations for their mitigation, carried out in accordance with the provisions of this law.

In accordance with the Law on Institutional Integrity Assessment No. 325/2013, **during 2022, the NAC completed the assessment process for 8 entities** as follows: *Agency for Material Reserves; General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations; Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources; National Public Health Agency; General Inspectorate of Border Police; National Public Security Inspectorate of the General Inspectorate of Police; Naval Agency; State Enterprise "Railways of Moldova"*.

Similarly, during January-July 2023, **the assessment of institutional integrity was completed at the Agency for Inspection of Monuments and IMSP Republican Clinical Hospital „Timofei Mosneaga"**. At the moment, the sectoral assessment of 12 entities in the field of "roads" is underway." (10 SA, 1 ÎM, 1 ÎS).

Full versions of the reports on the results of the evaluation have been sent to the entities evaluated, including the relevant ministries, and posted on the NAC website <https://cna.md>.

In the context of the activities carried out during 2022, the NAC experts identified a number of issues related to the evaluated entities, namely: *poor implementation of anti-corruption measures; corruptibility of regulatory acts, including departmental ones, but also their poor enforcement; poor application of some procedures, such as state control or public procurement; arbitrary/abusive issuance of health permits, including health authorisation to operate for some areas, activities or products not regulated by the regulatory framework in force, etc.* Another shortcoming reported concerns the lack of professional integrity of some public servants, an individual factor which has led to negative professional integrity test results.

In order to ensure and maintain a climate of institutional integrity, including in order to eliminate or minimise the impact of corruption risks on the activities of public entities, the NAC experts presented a series of recommendations to the evaluated entities, on the basis of which integrity plans were developed.

Thus, the evaluated entities have been provided with about **350 recommendations**, the fulfilment of which will allow to reduce manifestations of corruption among public officials, including the improvement of work processes that may have a direct impact on certain categories of citizens and economic agents.

The recommendations made in the evaluation process were fully taken on board and included in the integrity plans of the entities evaluated, the implementation of which was regularly verified by the NAC.

The integrity plan according to Law 325/2017 is an internal plan adopted by the head of the public entity and/or the self-governing body as a result of the institutional integrity assessment, through which the institutional integrity climate can be developed and/or strengthened during the implementation period and includes the recommendations made by the NAC.

With the approval of the integrity plan, the assessed entity undertakes tasks aimed at strengthening the institutional integrity climate and improving the assessed work processes by excluding or mitigating corruption risks identified in the assessment process, including improving the internal management control system.

It should be noted that the climate of institutional integrity is ensured through the application of national and sectoral anti-corruption policies, as well as specific professional integrity

requirements for the work of public officials within the public entity, including the effective implementation of recommendations made by the NAC in the assessment process.

With reference to the period of 2023 we mention that as a result of the application of this tool in PMSI RCH "Timofei Moşneaga" a number of typical and specific corruption risks were identified, namely: The risk of abuse/negligence in service; the risk of inefficient and/or fraudulent management of external/internal funds; the risk of violation of the rules of ethics and medical deontology; the risk of favouring private partners, fraudulent management of public assets, damage to the public interest in the framework of PPP contracts; the risk of restricting patient rights, including the right to information; the risk of non-utilisation and conservation of DM acquired in technical equipment projects; the risk of conflicts of interest, favouritism or admission and tolerance of integrity incidents, the risk of undue influence, etc.

The multitude of risks listed above, were generated by risk factors that can admit, encourage and cause the occurrence of corruption manifestations in the organization and conduct of work processes within PMSI RCH "Timofei Moşneaga", management of public financial resources and public assets, including the implementation of public-private partnership contracts. Thus, the evaluated entity was provided with about 80 recommendations that will be included in the Integrity Plan and will exclude, mitigate or keep under control possible risks generated by the non-conform implementation of anti-corruption measures and internal control standards, including those related to activities vulnerable to corruption.

Additionally, it should be noted that the NAC in the process of institutional integrity assessment verifies the implementation by the assessed entities of national and sectoral anti-corruption measures/policies that ensure the institutional integrity climate, namely: hiring and promotion of public officials on the basis of merit and professional integrity; regime of incompatibilities, restrictions in the hierarchy and limitations on publicity; regime of declaration of assets and personal interests; conflict of interest regime; favouritism; gift regime; reporting and handling of improper influence; reporting of manifestations of corruption and protection of whistleblowers; non-admissibility of corruption; transparency of the decision-making process; access to information of public interest; transparent and responsible management of public assets, reimbursable and non-reimbursable funds; professional ethics and professional conduct; restrictions and limitations on the termination of office, employment or service relationships and migration to the private sector of public officials ("pantufraj").

The reports on the results of the Institutional Integrity Assessment, which are published on the website, describe in the chapter "LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES" the level of compliance/implementation of the above mentioned policies.

In order to monitor the implementation of the integrity plans by the public entities evaluated, **20 monitoring reports** were prepared in the period 2022 - 1st semester 2023 and published on the NAC website.

### **Paragraph 16:**

The National Anti-Corruption Centre, on the anti-corruption education component, ensures the promotion and cultivation of integrity and anti-corruption policies by carrying out anti-corruption trainings within public entities and the business environment, by carrying out awareness-raising and education measures for the population, pupils and students, interaction with civil society, the business environment and media sources.

Anti-corruption education activities, aimed at promoting integrity and anti-corruption standards, strengthening the institutional and professional integrity system, educating society and public officials, are organised by the NAC in all areas of activity in the public and private sector.

Thus, **in the public sector**, anti-corruption trainings on national and international integrity and anti-corruption standards are organised with public officials in order to cultivate and strengthen institutional and professional integrity, as well as information and awareness-raising campaigns at national level that include information, awareness-raising and advisory activities on the implementation of integrity and anti-corruption policies. Trainings are conducted at the request of the NAC, public entities or Entity Training Centres.

Information and awareness-raising campaigns have been launched in partnership with the entities in charge of priority areas vulnerable to corruption, namely health, education, construction, food, customs, police, justice, public services, energy, environment, transport, etc. (for example with the generic: *"No more corruption at the BAC"; "Corruption seriously harms health"; "An anti-corruption day in your city"; "Integrity policemen - protected citizens"; "Integrity for Health"; "Integrity for quality public services"; "For Safety We Build with Integrity"; "Integrity: credibility in the education system"; "Integrity on the rails"; "Integrity: precondition for preventing corruption risks" etc*

Also, as part of the information and awareness-raising campaigns, a mobile information centre is provided where support and advice is given to citizens on the mechanisms of referral to the NAC and other issues within the competence of the NAC, including the distribution of information leaflets and videos on corruption prevention activities.

At the same time, in order to cultivate the professional integrity of public officials, the NAC has developed the E-learning distance learning platform "Anti-corruption and Integrity" which contains 7 self-training modules on integrity and anti-corruption. Every year public officials are self-trained on the platform.

During the year 2022-2023 (sem. I), about 630 trainings were conducted for 22 250 persons.

**In the private sector**, the NAC provides training activities with employees of private companies on measures to ensure integrity in the private sector in dealing with the private sector. In particular, anti-corruption trainings were conducted at strategic companies, such as: SRL Chisinau-GAZ, ÎS Moldelectrica, SA CET-Nord, SA MOLDCCELL etc. Thus, during 2022-2023 (sem. I), about 14 trainings were conducted for 800 people.

Also, in order to cultivate and promote integrity in the private sector, every year the NAC participates in the national competition "Moldovan Business Gala Trademark of the Year", an event organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova and AGEPI in partnership with the NAC. As part of this national competition the Centre offers the Integrity Trophy to private companies that implement integrity standards in the private sector. The Business Integrity Trophy is intended to support honest business and strengthen the integrity component in the private sector and contribute to the creation of a competitive, fair business environment based on integrity, transparency and professionalism in interaction with the public sector.

Similarly, the NAC has created communication platforms with private sector associations and foreign investors' associations in order to promote standards of integrity in the private sector by conducting anti-corruption education activities.

The National Anti-Corruption Centre actively provides and promotes **awareness-raising and educational measures** for young people. Thus, the NAC is accredited as a host institution for volunteer activity and has 73 NAC anti-corruption volunteers who are actively involved in anti-corruption education activities (*projects, games, study visits, information and awareness campaigns, etc.*) with young people, namely:

- **Quiz Pro-Integrity** – non-formal educational project in the form of a quiz, whose questions are developed with the support and involvement of NAC volunteers, the latter also participating in the organization of this activity, the aim of which is to strengthen the culture of integrity among pupils, high school students, students through the interactive assimilation of information on the premises and effects of the phenomenon of corruption.

- **Project „Integrity Dictionary”** – consisted in the filming of 10 video spots in which NAC volunteers where they exposed the content of basic notions related to the field of anti-corruption and integrity.

- **Project Club of Anti-Corruption Ideas** – consisted in the creation of video spots in order to launch innovative ideas on preventing and fighting corruption, after which they were publicized by the NAC on various social networks, including being used as an anti-corruption education product in prevention activities.

- **Project Quest Pro Integrity**– is an online anti-corruption education project, dedicated to students and pupils across the country, whose questions were developed by NAC anti-corruption volunteers and was carried out jointly with NAC officers.

- **Game ”4integrity”** – an interactive game that was developed and promoted among young people with the support of NAC anti-corruption volunteers. The game aims to promote and educate young people in the spirit of integrity and respect for the law.

- The information and awareness campaign **"Integrity for Children"**, carried out in children's camps across the country.

- Information and Awareness Campaign **"An Integrity Lesson in My School/University"** - as part of this campaign, NAC anti-corruption volunteers conducted public lessons on integrity, anti-corruption and corruption for their peers.

- Information and awareness campaign **"The Art of Remaining Integrity"**, a socio-cultural project for the prevention of corruption launched by the NAC in partnership with the AO Theatre Centre of Moldova and the National Theatre **"Mihai Eminescu"**, where the performance **"The Election of Mr Maccabee"** was staged and broadcast. Fifteen performances were broadcast nationwide with the participation of around 7,000 young people. As part of this project, NAC anti-corruption volunteers carried out an information and awareness-raising activity on the competence, mission and anti-corruption education activities of the NAC for the audience.

- Information and awareness raising campaign **"Integrity: credibility in the education system"** and **"No corruption in the BAC"** - in these campaigns anti-corruption volunteers conducted lessons on corruption, anti-corruption and integrity with students and distributed information materials to citizens.

- Campaign **"Your attitude matters - say NO to corruption"** - within this campaign launched in partnership by the NAC and the General Inspectorate of Police of Moldova at the country level, NAC volunteers carried out information and awareness-raising actions with citizens distributing information materials and informing about the NAC referral mechanisms.

- organizing the flash-mob **"I am honest! Be you too!"** by anti-corruption volunteers.

- development of anti-corruption awareness-raising materials by anti-corruption volunteers on the facebook page of anti-corruption volunteers under the headings "DID YOU KNOW THAT..."; "COMENTED QUOTES", " Facts from history"; "About honesty through verses", Giffs, awareness-raising drawings, anti-corruption awareness-raising comics, etc.

Every year the NAC organizes the NAC Anti-Corruption Volunteers Gala where it awards volunteers active in promoting the culture of integrity among young people and society in general.

The NAC also promotes the culture of integrity among young people by conducting public lectures in educational institutions, participating in various conferences/events/roundtables on integrity and anti-corruption, providing study visits to the NAC for groups of pupils, students and teachers, conducting master programmes at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova and the Free International University of Moldova.

During the year 2022-2023 (sem. I), about 200 trainings were conducted for 10,000 young people.

The National Anti-Corruption Centre carries out **corruption prevention activities in cooperation with civil society**, in particular we mention the largest campaigns/projects, namely:

- **NAC-AO "HOMECARE" and AO "CASAMED"** – the information and awareness-raising campaign "*Integrity for Health*" which aims to strengthen and reinforce the culture of integrity among health professionals, pharmacists, patients and society at large.

- **NAC -AO "Independent Analytical Centre EXPERT Grup"** – project realized within the master course "Anti-corruption and Good Governance" at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova;

- **NAC -AO Theatre Centre of Moldova and Mihai Eminescu Theatre"** – a socio-cultural project for the prevention of corruption which started with the presentation of the show "Election of Mr Maccabee" and aimed to promote and cultivate integrity among young people and society in general.

**NAC -AO Chamber of Commerce and Industry –AGEPI** – partnering in the national "Business Brand of the Year" competition by offering the Integrity Award to private companies implementing integrity standards in the private sector.

- **NAC -AAJI-NAI "Integrity: a precondition for preventing the risks of corruption"** - a project for justice sector representatives aimed at promoting and ensuring the rigours of integrity and anti-corruption.

- **NAC -AO European Association of Law Students** – ELSA, ULIM și ELSA, USM – initiatives to organise student study visits to the NAC.

- **NAC -AO VeDemJust and AO Legal Academy** – educational project for young people which consisted in conducting public lessons on the role of the NAC in preventing anti-corruption and on corruption, integrity and anti-corruption.

- **NAC -AO Centre for the Analysis and Prevention of Corruption** – country-wide project to promote the whistleblower institute.

- **NAC - Association for Human Rights Lex-XXI** – project for young people and teachers which was carried out through anti-corruption education activities and aimed at promoting a culture of integrity.

Similarly, the NAC provides **awareness-raising and education measures for society** through various preventive measures and tools such as:

- information and awareness-raising campaigns carried out at country level on various areas: *education, health, customs, police, construction, transport, utilities, energy, etc.*;

- Pod-Casts on "*Anti-Corruption and Integrity for All*" by NAC employees and NAC anti-corruption volunteers on various topics in the field of preventing and fighting corruption with guests in various fields, such as:

- ✓ "Integrity and anti-corruption for all";

- ✓ "Corruption: etymology, notion, history, forms and classification";
  - ✓ "The role of the anti-corruption volunteer in the development of a society of integrity";
  - ✓ Pod-Cast cycle on the competences of the NAC subdivisions;
  - ✓ "The place and role of the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office in the system of law enforcement bodies";
  - ✓ "Integrity - a fundamental value in ensuring an independent and effective justice" etc.
- In total, about 12 broadcasts were produced and promoted on the NAC's social networks and other social media platforms.

The NAC also carries out measures to raise awareness and educate society by producing materials/videos on various areas which are placed on the official website and social media of the NAC, including being broadcast during campaigns at the Mobile Information Centre. (*minibus equipped with audio/video devices*).

At the same time, the NAC has developed fun games for young people with the title "4 Integrity" which is an interactive and creative tool to raise awareness of the negative phenomenon of corruption, including jointly with anti-corruption volunteers various projects that are promoted on the official page and social networks of the NAC and anti-corruption volunteers, such as: Quest Pro Integrity, "DID YOU KNOW THAT..."; "COMMENTARY QUOTES", " Facts of History"; "About Honesty through Lyrics"; Giff's, Awareness Drawings; Anti-Corruption Awareness Comics, etc.

Another tool to promote corruption prevention **activities and raise public awareness is through the media**. Thus, NAC officers on the prevention component have participated as guests in various TV and Radio broadcasts on corruption prevention activities, projects, initiatives promoted by the NAC, activities and results of the institution, activities of NAC anti-corruption volunteers.

During the year 2022-2023 (sem. I), NAC officers participated in about 30 TV and radio shows.

## **2. Challenges encountered**

Please describe any challenges your country has encountered in implementing operative paragraphs 1 to 21 of resolution 9/1 regarding strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery. *Please state the relevant operative paragraphs in your answer.*