



GUVERNUL
REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



MACRO 2022

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: BUILDING DOMESTIC RESILIENCE

IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 10TH EDITION
CONFERENCE CONCEPT

Date: 23-24 February, 2022

Location: online (Zoom)

Event organized in partnership by the Government of Moldova, the Independent Think-Tank Expert-Grup and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung with the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in the Republic of Moldova

MACRO: What is it about?

“MACRO” stands for “Moldova: Assessing Country Risks and Opportunities.” MACRO has been conceived as an annual event bringing together domestic and international policy experts and thinkers with the key purpose of discussing and advancing innovative ideas to support the Republic of Moldova on its path of economic development and modernization. The annual Conference offers a high-level intellectual platform to discuss the global factors and trends that may influence how the Republic of Moldova can be transformed into an attractive destination for international investments and into a hub for new ideas and advanced technologies, as well as to assess risks that need to be alleviated in order to turn the country into a better market for capital and labor and to identify the opportunities that need to be harnessed so as to foster Moldova’s economic development and competitiveness.

Context

After the Presidential election in 2020 and the Parliamentary election in 2021, the Republic of Moldova underwent a major political change, resulting in a new Government backed up by a hitherto unprecedented popular mandate as well as support from international development partners for its comprehensive reform-oriented, pro-European agenda and strong stance on anti-corruption. However, the process of using the political momentum in order to produce systemic economic and social improvements was challenged by a series of negative shocks, mainly the worsening of the pandemic crisis, and the emergence of the energy crisis and high levels of global inflation. In addition to these exogenous shocks, the new government has to face a

series of endogenous constraints related to the weak capacity of the public administration, including systemic inertia and even resistance to reforms, coupled by a dearth of highly-qualified human resources.

While crisis management and the restoration of the rule of law are essential in order to maintain social and economic stability, there is also a legitimate expectation of Moldovan society that the country needs a holistic vision for the future and “positive priorities” addressing the daily needs of the people, enhancing their wellbeing in the short to medium-term, and also encouraging them to feel part of the transformational journey the country is embarking upon.

To address this expectation, the Government initiated a comprehensive strategic planning process of reviewing, updating and streamlining the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”. The NDS is expected to incorporate in a coherent and programmatic manner country’s strategic priorities, and core of structural reforms meant to bring about sustainable, long-term systemic changes. Naturally, this process is to be embedded in the current global economic, social and security context.

Goal

This international conference aims to discuss the global trends that will shape the future of the global environment, and reflect on the impact thereof on a new economic growth model for the Republic of Moldova. Together with domestic and international decision-makers and experts, the development priorities of the country that can ensure sustainable economic growth will be analysed. The conference will also represent an avenue to debate the vision proposed by the Government on future investments and reforms. The event will thus contribute to increasing predictability on major investments and to driving support for the improvement of the overall capacity of Moldovan society to maximize the momentum for lasting change.

Objectives

The event has 3 key objectives:

1. Discuss future trends at the global, regional and domestic levels, and define their implications for the Republic of Moldova, including risks and opportunities.
2. Discuss the long-term development vision and priorities for the Republic of Moldova up to the year 2030, based on the Strategy “Moldova 2030” National Development Strategy.
3. Raise awareness among relevant domestic and international stakeholders, regarding the development priorities and thus generating a framework for then alignment of private, public and donor investment priorities.

Target Audience

- Moldovan and foreign private sector representatives
- Social partners: Trade unions, employers’ associations
- Moldovan NGOs and academia;
- Mass media;
- Donor community/embassies/IFIs;
- Foreign experts and international academia.

Agenda

February 23, 2022

14:30-15:00 Registration. Launch of the event on zoom.us

15:00-15:15 Keynote address of the President of the Republic of Moldova

15:15-16:45 Panel 1. Republic of Moldova: a 360 degrees' analysis. Understanding global and regional trends and the domestic implications thereof

Natalia Gavriluța, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Moldova

Oliver Varhelyi, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement

Ricardo Hausmann, Rafik Hariri Professor of International Political Economy
Director, Harvard Growth Lab

Cass R. Sunstein, Founder and Director of the Program on Behavioural Economics and Public Policy at Harvard Law School, Legal Scholar, former Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Obama Administration

Moderator: *Valeriu Prohnițchi*, Program director, Expert-Grup

Key questions:

- What is the state of the country, including key challenges and forecasts?
- What are the main global economic and social trends and forecasts? How do they affect Moldova?
- How to adapt to the main challenges and tap the opportunities derived from the global trends?
- Key issues to be discussed: global inflation, energy security, investment attractiveness of Moldova, country competitiveness.

16:45-17:15 Coffee break

17:15-18:30 Panel 2. Building domestic resiliency amid global turbulent times – possible lessons for the Republic of Moldova

Ivan Miklos, Former Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Senior Non-Key Expert, European Union High Level Advisers' Mission to the Office of the Prime Minister

Valeriu Prohnițchi, Program director, Expert-Grup

Adrian Lupușor, Executive director, Expert-Grup

Moderator: *Stas Madan*, Program director, Expert-Grup

Key questions:

- How do other open and vulnerable small economies address the problem of global inflation?
- What should be the fiscal responses amid high deficits and limited fiscal space?
- What should be the optimal fiscal-monetary policy mix, given high inflationary pressures and economic uncertainty?
- How could development partners help amid these turbulent times?
- How to protect the vulnerable groups during the economic and social shocks?

February 24, 2022

8:30-9:00 Registration. Launch of the event on zoom.us

9:00-10:30 Panel 3. National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”

Natalia Gavrilă, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

Dumitru Udrea, General Secretary of the Government of the Republic of Moldova

Dumitru Budianschi, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Moldova

Adrian Lupușor, Executive director, Expert-Grup

Moderator: *Ion Gumene, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova*

Key questions:

- What are the key provisions of the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”?
- What should be the immediate and long-term priority reforms of the government, given the domestic and global challenges?
- How can the new Strategy align the strategic policy and budgetary planning?
- How to ensure that the new Strategy becomes an impactful instrument of strategic planning and delivers meaningful results for citizens?

10:30-12:00 Panel 4. Economic priorities: competitive enterprises, decent jobs and reliable living conditions for all

Constantin Borosan, State Secretary in the field of Energy, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova

Ján Marušinec, Public Finance Expert

Sergiu Gaibu, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova

Dumitru Alaiba, Chairman of the Committee on Economy, Budget and Finance, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

Viorel Gherciu, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova

Moderator: *Adrian Lupușor, Executive director, Expert-Grup*

Key questions:

- What are the immediate and long-term policy priorities in economic areas?

- How to tap the potential of the Moldovan economy and explore the domestic and international market opportunities?
- How to facilitate the transition from informal to formal economy and general decent jobs?
- How to maximize the added-value of the Moldovan economy?
- How can the necessary resources be identified to ensure a leap forward of the Moldovan economy?

12:00-12:45 Lunch break

12:45-14:15 Panel 5. Social priorities: building an inclusive, well-educated and healthy society

Marcel Spataru, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova
Dragoş Ciuparu, Public Policy Expert, former Secretary of State for Research in the Government of Romania

Ala Nemerenco, Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova

Ana Topală, Minister of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova

Sergiu Prodan, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Moldova

Moderator: *Valeriu Prohniţchi*, Program director, Expert-Grup

Key questions:

- What are the immediate and long-term policy priorities in social areas: social protection, education, health and culture?
- How to ensure a proper coordination of these priorities in order to improve the living conditions for all?
- What are the vulnerable groups and how policies should ensure their inclusion?

14:15-15:45 Panel 6. Good governance priorities: qualitative and accessible public services, functional justice and resilient and non-corrupt, efficient, professional public administration

Iurie Țurcanu, Deputy Prime Minister on Digitalization of the Republic of Moldova

Sergiu Litvinenco, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Moldova

Olesea Stamate, Member of Parliament, President of the Legal, Appointments, and Immunities Commission, Republic of Moldova

Ana Revenco, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova

Iulian Groza, Executive Director, Institute for European Policies and Reforms, IPRE

Moderator: *Ion Gumene*, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova

Key questions:

- What are the immediate and long-term policy priorities related to good governance?

- How to fight corruption more effectively? What are the next steps on the justice reform?
- What are the prospects and vision on the potential territorial administrative reform?
- How can the digitalization agenda help in the fight against corruption and improving the quality and access of public services?

15:45-17:15 Panel 7. Environment priorities: transitioning towards a green economy

Iuliana Cantaragiu, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova

Ina Coșeru, MP, Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Regional Development, Republic of Moldova

Alexandru Fală, Program director, Expert-Grup

Moderator: *Lilia Curchi*, Environmental activist, Executive Director at the Association of Environmental and Ecological Tourism Journalists of the Republic of Moldova

Key questions:

- What are the immediate and long-term policy priorities related to the environment?
- How to align environmental and economic objectives and ensure green growth?
- What economic incentives can be activated in order to diminish the environmental footprint of firms and households?

17:15-17:30 Key conclusions

Natalia Gavrilă, Prime-Minister of the Republic of Moldova

Adrian Lupușor, Executive director, Expert-Grup

Marcel Röthig, Representative of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Ukraine and Moldova