

North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

PRESS RELEASE

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Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

NC and Moldova Sign Renewed Bilateral Partnership Agreement *Secretary Marshall Presented with the Order of the Republic*

Raleigh – North Carolina’s partnership with Moldova was highlighted today with the signing of the sixth five-year bilateral agreement formally renewing the civilian partnership between North Carolina and the eastern European nation.

The agreement was signed during a ceremony in the capital city of Chisinau, Moldova by NC Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall, who Co-Chairs the North Carolina-Moldova Bilateral Committee; Moldova’s Prime Minister, Dorin Recean; and Moldova’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mihai Popsoi. Governor Roy Cooper signed the document before it left North Carolina, and Secretary Marshall traveled to Moldova to represent the state in a series of crucial meetings about exchanges between North Carolina and Moldova.

Prior to today’s official signing, Moldovan President Maia Sandu on Monday presented Secretary Marshall with the Order of the Republic, the highest honor the Moldovan government can bestow, for Secretary Marshall’s leadership of the NC-Moldova Partnership. President Sandu called Secretary Marshall a remarkable person and a great supporter of Moldova who has led a partnership that has benefited thousands of Moldovans.

“We’re marking the 25th anniversary of this unique and enduring Partnership this year,” said Secretary Marshall. “The North Carolina-Moldova Partnership is recognized by many as the strongest relationship to emerge from the Partnership for Peace, and the people-to-people diplomacy at its heart has never been more important than at this perilous moment in history.”

Moldova is bordered by Ukraine and Romania and has faced compounded crises since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Moldovans have opened their homes to refugees forced from their homes by the war in Ukraine; in fact, Moldova is sheltering more Ukrainian refugees per capita than any other country.

The Partnership has facilitated many academic, medical and cultural exchanges between North Carolina and Moldova since the first Agreement was signed in 1999. The focus has expanded to include more agricultural exchanges with a collaboration between NC State University and the Technical University of Moldova aimed at enhancing sustainable, climate-smart agricultural practices in Moldova.

Secretary Marshall led a delegation of 35 from North Carolina that met with Prime Minister Recean during the trip, as well as U.S. Ambassador to Moldova, Kent Logsdon.

The first bilateral agreement was signed in 1999 to formalize North Carolina’s partnership with Moldova, forged through the Partnership for Peace, which paired states in the US with former Soviet Union republics. The N.C. National Guard State Partnership with Moldova began in 1995 and is one of the longest running in the U.S. Department of Defense.



NC Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall and Prime Minister Dorin Recean at the signing of the bilateral agreement between North Carolina and Moldova on Tuesday. Governor Cooper signing the agreement in Raleigh on March 6th.



NC Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall and Moldovan President Maia Sandu at Moldova's presentation of the Order of the Republic. (Photo courtesy of NC Secretary of State)