

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA



Department of The Secretary of State

To all whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

I, **Elaine F. Marshall**, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify the following and hereto attached to be a true and original as authorized under the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina and the Governor of North Carolina.

This is to further certify that the attached MEMORANDUM OF PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA (USA) CONCERNING THEIR DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THEIR GOOD RELATIONS was signed on March 6, 2024, by Roy Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina, in Raleigh, North Carolina, and on March 18, 2024, signed in Chisinau, Moldova, by Mihai Popsoi, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and on March 19, 2024 by Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina; and Dorin Recean, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova.

In addition, it is certified that this document has been delivered to the Secretary of State of North Carolina pursuant to the law.N.C.G.S.66-280 for filing.

In Witness Whereof, I hereto set my hand and affixed my official seal at the City of Raleigh, this the 25th day of April, 2024.



Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

**MEMORANDUM OF PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND
THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA (USA)
CONCERNING THEIR DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN
GOOD RELATIONS**

PREAMBLE

The Republic of Moldova - North Carolina Bilateral Partnership was originally formalized on April 22, 1999, by the Republic of Moldova and the State of North Carolina, United States of America (USA), based upon an arrangement to link these two governments to better facilitate mutual cooperation. The terms of the partnership call for formal renewal periodically. After the initial term, the Republic of Moldova - North Carolina Bilateral Partnership was formally renewed in 2004, 2010, 2015 and 2019.

The partnership represents a bilateral association administered by a number of committees from the Republic of Moldova and North Carolina which put together efforts to enhance Moldovan-American relations. Over the years, the Memorandum's general principles and procedures have remained consistent. These reflect the partners' continuing desire to strengthen the existing good relations and wish for further development of the cooperation as they build upon the successes achieved throughout this period of time.

Aiming to strengthen this partnership, the partners established 2 Committees composed of the representatives from relevant institutions on each side. The Committees are empowered to coordinate their actions and to identify their evolving plans and priorities while ensuring smooth implementation of the agreed upon activities. The Republic of Moldova and the State of North Carolina, USA, hereafter collectively referred to as "the Partners," set out the following principles as goals they both aspire to reach, and furthermore set forth the following procedures as potential tools for reaching those goals:

PRINCIPLES

1. The Partners acknowledge the benefits of their cooperation in different areas of mutual interest;
2. The Partners have already gained varied and promising experiences through existing Partnership Programs and express their interest to further advance the cooperation, following the Procedures of the Memorandum;

3. The Partners seek to strengthen the good relations existing between themselves and their citizens and to continuously increase their commitment to improved cooperation and mutual understanding;

4. The Partners seek to further strengthen their ties of friendship and to foster the continuous expansion of cultural, health, academic, and civic exchanges, as well as to establish cooperation in additional areas of interest, such as justice and public safety, home and domestic affairs, regional development and planning, economic development, university-industry partnerships, information and communication technology, tourism and environmental protection;

5. The aforementioned cooperation may involve:

- a) joining efforts to foster exchanges in order to gain mutual understanding;
- b) supporting academic exchanges and scientific, educational activities;
- c) supporting and enhancing Moldova's security through the National Guard State Partnership Program;
- d) increasing cultural and artistic cooperation of the Partners by holding exhibitions, book fairs, theater, dance and music events, and to enhance participation in these important cultural events, with the aim to increase the mutual understanding of the history, traditions and cultural values of the Partners;
- e) intensifying the economic cooperation between the Partners, including identifying new business opportunities, attracting investments in various sectors, as well as establishing contacts between the economic development organizations and commercial business sector representatives from both Partners;
- f) establishing cooperation on environmental protection, thus contributing to the long-term sustainable development of the Partners;
- g) establishing cooperation in the fields of justice and public safety, taking into account the judicial reforms being implemented in Moldova and embracing North Carolina's judicial best practices;
- h) establishing cooperation in the field of regional planning, development and construction and strengthening the collaboration between the Regional Development Agencies of Moldova and parallel organizations within North Carolina, with the aim of embracing best practices in the field of regional planning, development and construction.

PROCEDURES

1. Should the Partners consider it advisable in order to attain these goals, they may:

1.1. Form 2 committees of the Republic of Moldova - North Carolina Bilateral Partnership, representing each Partner:

The Republic of Moldova committee is comprised of representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, State Chancery, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Environment, Invest Moldova Agency, Moldovan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, public and private colleges and universities, as well as public and private sector representatives to be appointed by the Prime Minister, upon recommendation of the Chair of the Moldovan Committee. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova shall be designated as the Chair of the Moldovan Committee of the Bilateral Partnership.

The North Carolina committee consists of representatives from the Office of the Governor, Secretary of State, Department of Commerce, National Guard, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Labor, Department of Insurance, Department of Justice, Department of Public Safety, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Instruction, public and private Universities, Community Colleges, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, as well as public and private sector representatives to be appointed by the Governor, upon recommendation of the Chair of the North Carolina Committee. The Secretary of State of North Carolina shall be designated as the Chair of the North Carolina Committee of the Bilateral Partnership.

It is recommended that these committees:

- a) meet annually or as otherwise decided;
- b) be comprised of people from both the private business sector and the public sector;
- c) include other participants to be invited by the respective Chair of each committee and to be involved in an advisory or working group capacity as appropriate;

d) submit annually to the Chairs of the Committee proposals on collaboration in order to achieve the objectives of the Memorandum;

1.2. Share expertise, assistance and consultancy to the extent possible, which are deemed necessary by both Partners for the completion of the Memorandum provisions;

a) provide the opportunity for professional, research, and governmental exchanges;

b) assist individuals involved in activities contemplated by this Memorandum in facilitating travel between North Carolina and the Republic of Moldova;

c) undertake actions deemed necessary by the Partners to continue to improve the existing dialogue in order to enhance progress needed for achieving the goals stipulated in the Memorandum.

LIMITATIONS

1. The Memorandum is a declaration of goals that both Partners believe to be worth pursuing. The Partners recognize that some or all goals may not be fully met. It is the intent of the Partners to work together in the spirit of cooperation for their mutual benefit. This Memorandum does not create any obligations or constitute a legally binding agreement under international law. This Memorandum does not authorize either Partner to conduct activities inconsistent with the governing laws of their country.

2. It is understood that this Memorandum creates no special legal considerations for citizens of either Partner under the domestic laws of the Partners.

3. The goals and procedures herein may be updated, extended, or discontinued by the mutual written consent of authorized representatives of the Partners, at any time. Either Partner may also discontinue the Memorandum by giving sixty (60) days' written notice of withdrawal to the other Partner. The Memorandum is designated for an initial minimum period of five (5) years, unless discontinued earlier, and may continue to apply to the Partnership beyond the initial five (5) years until a new Memorandum is adopted. This Memorandum may be renewed beyond its initial term by mutual decision of the Partners.

EXECUTION AND BECOMING EFFECTIVE

This Memorandum is signed in two (2) original documents in each language, Romanian and English, both texts being equally official. It commences on the day the final signature is affixed.

For the Republic of Moldova

For the State of North Carolina



DORIN RECEAN
Prime Minister



ROY COOPER
Governor

03.19.2024

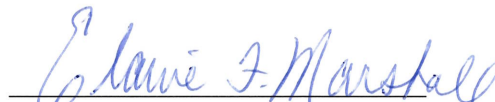
Date

03-06-2024

Date



MIHAI POPȘOI
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Committee Chair



ELAINE F. MARSHALL

Secretary of State, Committee Chair

03-18-2024

Date

3-19-24

Date