

## **THE STATEMENT**

### **of the ENVIRONMENTAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **on including the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE as a priority area in GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** based on the provisions of article 37 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, by which the state guarantees the right to an environmentally friendly environment from the point of view of life and health,

**UNDER THE LAW** on the protection of the environment, which indicates that the protection of the environment is a national priority, directly concerning the living and health conditions of the population, the implementation of the economic and social-human interests, and the capacities of sustainable development of the society in the future,

**AWARE** of the poor quality of the environment on different dimensions (water, air, forests, soil, waste, etc.), which is the result of ignorance and misunderstanding of this area by the high-level decision-makers of the Republic of Moldova, during many years,

**CONSIDERING** the importance of environmental protection as an area that conditions the existence and quality of life, which is a priority for the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the sustainable development of the Republic of Moldova, in harmony with the economic and social development, a fact indicated in the Environmental Strategy for the years 2014-2023 and also recognized in the National Development Strategy “Moldova 2030”,

**REALIZING** the complexity of the process of harmonizing national legislation with the EU Directives in the field of environmental protection and climate change, stipulated in the Association Agreement signed between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, and of the AA Implementation Plans,

**BEARING THE TRUST** that the implementation of Chapters 16 and 17 of the Association Agreement signed between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union, aimed at preserving, protecting, improving and rehabilitating the quality of the environment, the protection of human health, the sustainable use of natural resources and the promotion of measures at international level to address issues related to the environment and climate change at regional or global level, will contribute to the improvement of the legislative and regulatory framework in the field of environmental protection and adaptation to climate change, and thus reduce the degradation and increase the quality of the environment in the Republic of Moldova, providing opportunities for investments in the national economy and to improve the standard of living and health of the population,

**NOTING** from the provisions of the approximately 40 Multilateral and bilateral environmental Conventions / Agreements, to which the Republic of Moldova is a party,

**CONSTATING** the serious state of pollution and degradation of the environment in the Republic of Moldova and the lack of continuity in solving priority environmental problems (water quality and protection (including protection of transboundary and small rivers), atmospheric air protection, waste management, biodiversity conservation),

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the backlog of the Republic of Moldova to the commitments made by adhering to international agreements and conventions in the field of environment,

**RECOGNIZING** that the quality of life depends on the life, health and standard of living of the population, regardless of age and type of activity, with the development of the economic and scientific field in the country,

**NOTING** the Minority Government's Activity Program,

*Environmental Civil Society organizations are concerned* about the lack of provisions regarding the implementation of sustainable development, environmental protection, adaptation to climate change, promotion of the green economy and circular economy in the Preamble, Immediate Objectives and Priority Directions of activity in the Government's Activity Program.

**WE PLEAD for the inclusion of Environmental Protection as a separate priority chapter** in the Immediate Objectives and Priority Areas of activity of the Government Activity Program,

**WE DRAW ATTENTION** to the need for institutional separation of the environment from the fields of agriculture and regional development through restoration of the Ministry of the Environment,

**WE REQUEST** the elimination of actions from the priorities in the agricultural field, such as "*Developing the national strategy for environmental protection*", as irrelevant and outdated,

**WE CONFIRM** the high degree of interest and openness of civil society involvement in the elaboration of proposals for the environmental priority of the Government's Activity Program and Action Plan, for the promotion of European values and the implementation of practical measures to protect the environment and to adapt to climate change for the benefits. to the whole society.

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