



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE REGIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

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*This article analyses the evolution of the National Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova and the impact of political approaches on their role in the state's defence system. The creation of the National Armed Forces in 1991 was an objective necessity, determined by the political processes of state building and the imperative of defending independence and territorial integrity, in the context of the armed conflict triggered by the separatist forces on the left bank of the Dniester River.*

*After the cessation of hostilities, the position of the political forces towards the development of the National Armed Forces was marked by uncertainties, reaching a critical point in 2003 with the provisions of the "Kozak Memorandum", which, if adopted, would have led to the abolition and liquidation of the military institution.*

*The war in Ukraine profoundly transformed the regional security environment. This new reality requires a reassessment of the needs for the development of the armed forces. The state leadership supports the objective of modernizing the armed forces and has allocated the necessary budgetary resources. Currently, the development of the National Armed Forces is ensured by the national programs and with the help of international cooperation projects. By consolidating modern armed forces, the Republic of Moldova strengthens its national security and affirms its status as a credible partner in the field of international security.*

*Keywords: National Armed Forces; defence; security; defensive sufficiency; international cooperation;*



### INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Moldova has constitutionally declared its status of permanent neutrality. However, it is forced to take into account potential security threats. That is why defence represents an essential pillar of security, having the role of protecting national interests and supporting the political, economic and social development of the state. In accordance with international law, the Republic of Moldova has the legitimate right to protect its integrity and independence, using for this purpose all the legal means at its disposal (UN Charter, 1945). In this context, Article 108 of the Constitution provides that the Armed Forces are under the exclusive control of the will of the people, with the main mission of defending the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. It is important to understand the constitutional approach by which it is determined that the defence of the state is not only a right, but also a sacred duty for every citizen (Parlamentul Republicii Moldova, 1994).

The Military Doctrine is the first political document that outlines the essential directions of the national defence of the Republic of Moldova in the context of its neutral status. This document establishes the essential qualitative benchmarks for the development of the Armed Forces, so that they should be properly prepared, equipped and provided to guarantee the military security of the state (Parlamentul Republicii Moldova, 1995). The basic principles of the Military Doctrine policies are reflected in the Military Strategy, which emphasizes that, despite its status of permanent neutrality, the Republic of Moldova must be prepared to manage risks and threats that are constantly evolving (Guvernul Republicii Moldova, 2018-a).

This vision is also maintained in the draft of a new Military Strategy that emphasizes that the neutrality of the Republic of Moldova does not represent a restriction, but a responsibility of the authorities to adopt all necessary measures, including military ones, to guarantee national independence, territorial integrity and state security.

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In this context, the qualitative development and modernization of the National Armed Forces become essential factors for national defence and security (Guvernul Republicii Moldova, 2025-a).

### SHORT HISTORY

The National Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova were created shortly after the proclamation of independence, on 3 September 1991, being part of the political processes of state consolidation and as a natural response to the need to protect its sovereignty and independence (Ciobanu, Plop, 2021, p. 41). The decree to create the National Armed Forces demonstrated a united will of the political class and took place in conditions in which the destructive actions of the separatists in the Transnistrian region were gaining momentum, and the state needed defence. In those circumstances, although they were still in the process of organization, the National Armed Forces units were called to intervene in the armed confrontations against the separatist forces, which benefited from direct support from the Russian military forces stationed on the left bank of the Dniester River (Țăranu, Gribincea, 2012, p. 23). On 21 July 1992, based on the political will aimed at stopping the conflict, the *“Agreement on the Principles for a Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Dniester Region of the Republic of Moldova”* was signed (Tabaranu, 2021), a document that marked the end of hostilities and created the premises for the peaceful reintegration of the Moldovan state. The military units of the National Armed Forces were deployed in the security zone, where they began the first post-conflict mission within the Peacekeeping Forces, established based on the provisions of the Agreement.

A new stage in the development of the National Armed Forces has begun, characterized by uncertainties regarding either the type of armed forces to be built or the necessity of armed forces. The discussions are still relevant today, when we have a war on the borders of the Republic of Moldova. There are numerous politicians and civic activists, many of them coming from parties oriented towards Russia and the politics of this country, nostalgic for the times of the Soviet empire, who question, in different ways and with various arguments, the necessity of modern National Armed Forces (Stop Fals, 2024). In fact, the armed forces are being attacked because modern

armed forces, supported by citizens, represent not only a military force but also the moral, spiritual strength and resilience of society. And a majority of these narratives against the armed forces are part of well-coordinated actions, specific to propaganda campaigns supported by the Russian Federation. They are used as specific means within the hybrid war waged by Moscow against the Republic of Moldova, which continues even after the cessation of military actions on the banks of Dniester River in 1992. By such actions, the Russian Federation tries to maintain its influence and impose its geopolitical interests in the area.

The culminating point was the provision of the so-called *“Kozak Memorandum”*, from 2003, where, on the one hand, the demilitarization of the Federation and the total abolition of the National Armed Forces were demanded, and, on the other hand, the long-term stationing of the Russian armed forces on the national territory was legalized (Țăranu, Gribincea, 2014, pp. 129-140). According to the memorandum, the territorial reintegration of the Republic of Moldova was conditioned by the formation of a Moldovan state constituted in the form of an asymmetric Federation. After extensive analysis, the Chișinău authorities realized the seriousness of the threats and ultimately opted not to sign the memorandum.

The armed forces have once again returned to political attention as an important factor in ensuring the military security of the state and a possible contributor to international security. The Law on national defence was adopted, which clearly defines the principles according to which national defence is organized and ensured, as well as the responsibilities of the public institutions involved. At the same time, it provides the necessary legal framework for the management and coordination of state defence, specifies the attributions of the forces that are part of the national defence system, and regulates the defence planning process at the political and military levels (Parlamentul Republicii Moldova, 2003).

In the same year, 2003, the National Armed Forces began to participate in the post-conflict humanitarian and reconstruction operation in Iraq (Ministerul Apărării al Republicii Moldova, 2024). Moreover, in 2006, the Republic of Moldova-NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) was signed (Ministerul Afacerilor Externe al Republicii Moldova, 2024), a reference document that significantly



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influenced the development of the partnership with NATO and the promotion of the reform process in the fields of national defence and security.

According to the profound transformations that occurred in the international and regional security architecture, as a result of the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Moldova initiated an extensive process of analysis of its own defence and security sector, with the support of international partners for its implementation. As a result, in June 2015, the Republic of Moldova was included in the Defence Capability Building Initiative (DCBI) of the North Atlantic Alliance, and the Ministry of Defence was designated as the state authority responsible for the implementation of the initiative (Guvernul Republicii Moldova, 2018-b).

Thanks to the support provided through the DCBI program, in 2018, the first security and defence policy documents following the Western model were developed and adopted, such as the National Defence Strategy and the Military Strategy. However, the provision of financial resources represented the essential element, but also the biggest problem, in achieving the proposed objectives. Considering this aspect, the Ministry of Defence drew up a *Long-term Military Capabilities Development Plan for the period 2020-2030* (Ministerul Apărării al Republicii Moldova, 2020). The document was based on a set of detailed actions, accompanied by realistic financial estimates for achieving the proposed objectives in the long term.

The plan provided for the Armed Forces to become a modern structure by 2030, with the potential to ensure the protection of state security and guarantee national sovereignty and independence. However, with the financing of the defence sector below 0.3% GDP, it was impossible to achieve the assumed development objectives. And an example is the failure of the Armed Forces Professionalization Program approved in 2018 and which provided for the full transition to professional armed forces by 2021 (Guvernul Republicii Moldova, 2018-c). We will note several causes: given the importance of the defence sector in ensuring the security and sustainable development of the state, the Program was not the expression of the common decision of the political class, being rather an image decision of a political party that had no continuity; the issue of financing the Program was not a priority of the political leadership and the Government of that period.

## THE TOPICALITY OF THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DEVELOPMENT

After the start of the war in Ukraine, the political leadership from Chişinău highlighted the importance of the national defence system, the need to support and develop it, and initiated a complex process of updating the strategic defence planning framework. As a result, the National Security Strategy was approved (Parlamentul Republicii Moldova, 2023), which determines the threats to national security and highlights the strategic directions necessary to strengthen the national defence, the state security and the security of every citizen.

The war in Ukraine and the effects generated on the security of the state, in the context in which the military operations were moving towards the Republic of Moldova, signalled the importance of reaching the necessary capabilities of the National Armed Forces more quickly. For example, the failure of anti-aircraft defence systems to detect and identify the penetration of Russian missiles and drones into the national airspace (Newsmaker, 2024) highlighted major capability deficiencies, underscoring the urgent need for a rapid and substantial modernization of this defence segment, without waiting for the completion of the initially planned long-term stages.

In this context, the Ministry of Defence adopted the *Strategic Vision for the development of the National Armed Forces for the period 2022–2025*, along with an *Action Plan* for its implementation. These documents constitute an essential programmatic framework for directing the process of reform and modernization of the Armed Forces oriented on objectives, efficiency and costs, as fundamental principles of evaluation and planning (Oficial, 2022).

We will mention the following external and internal factors that facilitated the process oriented towards planning the development of the National Armed Forces in the new security conditions.

### ❖ External factors:

- The resumption of a high-intensity armed conflict in Europe, with the invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, represents a direct threat to the national security of the Republic of Moldova;
- The continuous hybrid war waged by the Russian Federation in the Republic of Moldova in order to ensure strategic control over it;



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- Deepening the privileged strategic partnership in the field of security and defence with Romania;
  - Consolidation and expansion of cooperation in the field of defence and security with an increasing number of states in the Euro-Atlantic space;
  - The Republic of Moldova has obtained the status of a candidate country for accession to the European Union and demonstrates a clear political commitment to achieving this objective;
  - The development of the individual defence capabilities as well as the common ones of the European Union countries has become a priority;
  - The signing of the Strategic Partnership in the field of security and defence between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union as evidence of the amplification of the partnership in this area;
  - Strengthening the partnership with NATO by accepting and signing a new Individual Partnership Program, developed in compliance with the neutral status of the Republic of Moldova and in accordance with major national security priorities.
- ❖ **Internal Factors:**
- The Republic of Moldova has established in the Constitution the integration into the European Union as a strategic development objective;
  - The current political leadership is aware of the need to defend national values, national interests and has adopted the main policy documents in the field of security and defence;
  - The political failure of the previous leadership to implement the Plan for the total professionalization of the armed forces by 2021;
  - The National Armed Forces face a series of increasingly complex responsibilities, reflecting the current realities in essential areas such as air defence, cyber security, rapid reaction capacity, the capacity to mobilize personnel and resources, strategic communication;
  - Restrictions of the normative framework, the absence of a unified system of budget planning of the defence sector and multi-annual procurement;

- There is a lack of an effective coordination and collaboration mechanism between ministries in terms of defence planning, a fact that makes a coherent and integrated approach to this strategic field difficult;
- The exclusion of Border Guard Troops from the Armed Forces structure and the reconfiguration of their role within the national security system;
- The reform of the Carabinieri Troops by approving a new structure, the complete transition to the principle of complementation only by contract, investing them with new responsibilities in accordance with the new requirements of internal security and public order;
- Inadequate operative deployment in national territory of military units and outdated military infrastructure;
- Exhausted military equipment, physically and morally obsolete and with expired terms of operation;
- Adoption and integration of Western standards in training military personnel and troops, as well as in organizing structures, planning and conducting operations, and managing combat and logistical support;
- The institutional and operational support of the National Armed Forces has been extended in order to participate with subunits and military personnel in international peacekeeping operations;
- Increasing the role of professional soldiers and the social protection aspects of the military;
- New requirements for the mobilization system of the Armed Forces, increasing the role of volunteer reservists.

In these circumstances, the National Armed Forces have undergone an extensive transformation process, taking into account their current state and the need to adapt to the new threats in the security environment. At the same time, a realistic balance is being sought between the state's defence requirements and the real resources it has. Over the years, the strategies and plans developed in the field of national defence have, for the most part, reflected a concern to maintain a minimum level of functioning of the National Armed Forces, without putting any real emphasis on their transformation



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At the beginning of 1994, according to the personnel lists approved by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the ground forces of the National Armed Forces consisted of 9,800 military personnel. In 1999, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, by its decision, established the structure and organization of the National Armed Forces and the institutions under the authority of the Ministry of Defence, approving the number of military personnel at 8,500. Starting in 2001, the National Armed Forces have been gradually reduced, first to 7,200 military personnel, then to 6,800 in 2003, and by 2007 the number had decreased to 6,500 military personnel (Parlamentul Republicii Moldova, 2007).

At the same time, starting in 2012, the Armed Forces have been reduced by almost 6,000 military personnel, mainly as a result of the reformation and demilitarization process of the former Department of Border Guards, which was restructured into the General Inspectorate of the Border Police. In addition to this, the staff of the General Inspectorate of Carabinierii was reduced as part of the process of making the institution more efficient. In the context of the current security challenges and the constitutional responsibilities of the armed forces, the increase in the number of military personnel in peacetime has become a natural and fully justified necessity (Parlamentul Republicii Moldova, 2024).

At their formation, the National Armed Forces inherited the military equipment left on national territory from the former Soviet Armed Forces. The Republic of Moldova joined the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the National Armed Forces did not exceed the established limits, and certain types of military equipment were never owned, such as tanks or attack helicopters. If we analyse, for example, the proportion of combat vehicles in the Armed Forces of neutral countries compared to 1000 soldiers, we will observe the following situation, the Republic of Moldova (without tanks) has 3-5 times less armoured equipment for infantry, and a similar proportion is also found in the case of other military equipment.



At the same time, the military equipment is outdated and urgently requires replacement, given that its term of use has expired. It is important to note that from international practice, the development and integration of new weapon systems requires a process of 10-12 years. That is why, for every military, it is essential to have a strategic planning of periodic re-equipment to ensure it with modern equipment that meets the current and future demands of the battlefield (Coropcean, 2023, pp. 7-18).

The planning and implementation of modernization activities and procurement of new weapon systems for the National Armed Forces represent a necessity that corresponds to the principle of defensive sufficiency and is not militarization, as some political forces manipulate and misinform (Stop Fals, 2024). A relevant index that contradicts the narrative about the militarization of the state is the ranking of military powers for the year 2024, where the Republic of Moldova ranked second to last (Global Firepower, 2024).

Under these conditions, the Ministry of Defence proposes to carry out an extensive process of gradual transformation, for the building of modern, technically assured armed forces, completed with military trained to high standards that can ensure coherent military capabilities for fulfilling the fundamental mission of national defence, supporting civil authorities in exceptional situations, as well as participating in international peacekeeping operations.

The declared objective has the appropriate political support and will be achieved by gradually increasing the budget for the Ministry of Defence in order to reach a share of 1% of GDP by 2030. A first action towards achieving this strategic objective was achieved by increasing the budget allocated to the defence sector, from the level of 0.39% of GDP in 2022 to 0.55% for 2023, then to 0.65% of GDP in 2024 (Ziarul de Gardă, 2024).

For the year 2025, the budget allocations for the defence sector amount to approximately 1.96 billion lei, which corresponds to 0.6% of GDP. This share reflects a still relatively low level of defence investments in relation to international standards and the current needs for strengthening defence capabilities (Ministerul Finanțelor al Republicii Moldova, 2024). However, it encourages the determination

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of the leadership from Chişinău to support the development of the armed forces. At the same time, in recent years, in addition to national financial resources, contributions from bilateral partnerships, as well as the support provided by the European Union and NATO, have also been capitalized.

In order to implement the essential provisions of the National Security Strategy and the National Defence Strategy, the Ministry of Defence aims to materialize them by achieving a set of general objectives oriented towards strengthening defence capabilities, institutional modernization and increasing the resilience of the national security system, integration into the security and defence architecture of the European Union.

The Government assumed the achievement of the proposed objectives and approved the *Governmental Development Plan 2023-2025* (Guvernul Republicii Moldova, 2023), which provided for the allocation of the necessary financial sources for the implementation of the following priority directions: strengthening anti-aircraft defence capabilities for the protection of critical objectives located on the national territory; modernization and improvement of training centres, to improve personnel training; provision with modern weapons, ammunition and military equipment; ensuring the continuous replenishment and maintenance of stocks of materials and technical means; the development and modernization of operational and tactical communication systems; the training and preparation of the Armed Forces reserve; strengthening the defence capabilities in cyber space; strengthening the combat capabilities of the operational forces of the National Armed Forces through their staged professionalization; expanding participation in international missions carried out under the auspices of the European Union, the United Nations and other international organizations.

In order to support international peacekeeping efforts, the armed forces aim to expand their participation in such missions by increasing the number of soldiers and contingents involved. In addition to the 22 contingents deployed in the KFOR (Kosovo) missions and the 6 contingents in Iraq (2003-2008), since August 2022 the National Armed Forces have been present in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) mission. Starting from October 2024, they have

participated in the European Union Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EU ALTHEA), and from July 2024, with two officers, they have participated in the European Union Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia). In addition, the armed forces provide individual deployment of officers to UN and EU peacekeeping missions every year. Through its contribution to international peacekeeping missions, the Republic of Moldova strengthens its role as an active actor in the security field and becomes a more credible partner in international relations (Ministerul Afacerilor Externe al Republicii Moldova, 2025).

These development processes of the National Armed Forces need the broad support of the citizens, for which a security culture and effective strategic communication are needed. Considering the importance of this field, the Ministry of Defence has approved the creation of the Strategic Communication Directorate. We will mention that the political support and the consolidated effort of the Ministry of Defence in the development and modernization of the national defence capabilities in the context of the implementation of the objectives established in the National Defence Strategy have brought the first progress. Thus, according to the new *Global Firepower 2025* ranking, the Republic of Moldova advanced by 10 positions and occupies the 134<sup>th</sup> place (Global Firepower, 2025).

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES THROUGH THE PRISM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In the current security context, international cooperation and the support of partners are essential factors for achieving the strategic objectives of the Republic of Moldova. The European Union, through the support of the European Peace Instrument, has given substantial support to the process of modernization of the National Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova. This assistance has been materialized in providing the medical, logistics, engineering and cyber defence units with modern equipment, as well as in replacing outdated military equipment with new generation systems, thus contributing to the increase of operational capabilities and the partial alignment of national military standards with European ones. On 21 May 2024, the Republic of Moldova and the European Union signed the Partnership



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for Security and Defence. This important partnership will support the state in strengthening its defence sector and contribute to the strengthening of cyber and information security, providing a framework for more effective protection in the face of today's threats (Deutsche Welle, 2024).

In turn, the North Atlantic Alliance approved the Enhanced Assistance Package for Strengthening the Defence Capabilities of the Republic of Moldova, which provides for the expansion of six new projects. This assistance, in the form of consultancy, training and capabilities, contributes to the modernization of the defence and security sector, including increasing the national resilience and capacity to manage various crisis situations (Realitatea, 2023).

A new stage in ensuring the security and resilience of the Republic of Moldova, the development of the National Armed Forces, is the approval by the Government of the Individual Partnership Program (ITPP) Republic of Moldova -NATO for the years 2025-2028. By participating in this Program, the Republic of Moldova aims to capitalize on the support and advanced knowledge of the Alliance, benefiting from practical expertise and concrete assistance in the process of implementing essential reforms in the field of defence. Thus, from the new Program we can highlight the following objectives:

- Conducting political consultations focused on national security aspects and the dynamics of geopolitical developments in the region;
- Effectively capitalizing on the NATO Assistance Package for the purpose of developing the national defence and security system;
- Improving the legislative and institutional framework for strengthening the capacities, efficiency and transparency of institutions in this sector;
- Implementation of the Professional Development Program that will contribute to the formation of an increasingly better trained generation of military and civilian officials, experts in the field of security and defence;
- Modernizing the capabilities of the Armed Forces by: optimizing the command-and-control system, making defence resource management more efficient, updating the military

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training process, improving the personnel management and recruitment system;

- Strengthening cooperation in combating emerging security threats, including cyber attacks, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- Strengthening the resilience of national institutions in the face of current security challenges and risks;
- Cooperation in the management of emergency situations and strengthening the reaction capacities of the Republic of Moldova in this area;
- Creating a climate of confidence among the population in the relevance of cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and NATO by clearly presenting the advantages brought by this partnership through effective strategic communication and open and transparent public diplomacy (Guvernul Republicii Moldova, 2025-b).

Within the framework of bilateral partnerships, the governments of the United States of America, Germany and other countries have provided important support for the development of the armed forces. Substantial aid throughout the independence of the Republic of Moldova has been and is being provided by Romania, which constantly offers us materialized assistance both through logistical support and through supporting scientific research projects, involvement in education and advanced military training programs. The donation of individual ballistic protection equipment and off-road vehicles reflects Romania's concrete commitment to support the provision of the National Armed Forces military with the necessary resources to carry out their missions (Europa Liberă, 2023).

The National Security Strategy emphasizes the crucial role of consolidating the privileged, deep and multidimensional strategic partnership with Romania in the fields of security and defence. This partnership is seen as a key element in achieving the national objective of joining the European Union and plays an essential role in building a sustainable and stable security for the future of the Republic of Moldova.

The objectives of the development of the National Armed Forces in the current security conditions require the approval of a new



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structure with a larger number of troops and effective long-term resource planning. The configuration of the new structure must be based on the lessons learned from the war in Ukraine, emphasizing both the relevance of conventional weapons, new technologies, as well as combat and logistical assurance, adapted to the requirements of current military operations. Thus, the new operational capabilities of the armed forces represent an important element for strengthening the resilience of the state against security threats, protecting national values and interests. At the same time, they also represent a factor in the consolidation of regional security. In this context, the National Defence Strategy as a result indicator towards the year 2029, when achieving the general objective “Positioning the Republic of Moldova as a regional and international security provider and as a reliable partner”, has established to increase participation in international missions and operations up to the battalion level. It assumes that the armed forces must have an optimal strength of three peacekeeping battalions (for a six-month mission, one battalion is on the mission, the second is recovering after the mission, and the third is preparing to leave on the mission).

Currently, the armed forces have only one peacekeeping battalion, and in order to achieve the objective in the announced perspective, it is recommended to increase its status to the level of Peacekeeping Brigade. At the same time, the decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to establish a temporary moratorium on employment in the budgetary sector for the year 2025 limits the possibility of filling the vacant positions within the Ministry of Defence, making it difficult to implement actions for the development and modernization of the armed forces (Guvernul Republicii Moldova, 2024).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Currently, for the Republic of Moldova as a neutral state, the realization of its right to defence must be viewed through a complex approach, on the one hand with modern armed forces, on the other hand through coordination between all security components, by involving both government institutions as well as civil society and the citizen.



*Providing constant support for the modernization of the National Armed Forces through sufficient budget allocations, investments and continuous development of capabilities, as essential steps for protecting the state and increasing resilience in the face of current challenges. The small number of the armed forces personnel, their structure and insufficient equipment are security vulnerabilities.*

The political leadership in Chişinău is fully aware of its responsibility in ensuring an adequate level of equipment and training of the National Armed Forces, so that they can effectively fulfil their constitutional duties of defending the state. The established directions for the development of the National Armed Forces correspond to this desire.

At the same time, the security and defence policy documents that will be developed in the context of implementing the provisions of the National Security Strategy, the National Defence Strategy, are also to establish several directions of action, the implementation of which will support the development of the National Armed Forces at the level of defensive sufficiency. They can be the following:

- △ Providing constant support for the modernization of the National Armed Forces through sufficient budget allocations, investments and continuous development of capabilities, as essential steps for protecting the state and increasing resilience in the face of current challenges. The small number of the armed forces personnel, their structure and insufficient equipment are security vulnerabilities. Neutrality in itself does not defend, it is necessary to have sufficient defensive capabilities, taking the example of neutral countries;
- △ The active participation of the Republic of Moldova in international peacekeeping missions, including by creating a Peacekeeping Brigade, meets both its national security interests and the expectations of international partners. At the same time, this openness provides the military with opportunities for training and gaining practical experience in real cooperation contexts;
- △ The development of human resources is the main component of the defence system. It is considered appropriate to continue maintaining the mixed system of replenishing the National Armed Forces, based on both compulsory service and contract employment. Also, the National Armed Forces in peacetime must be maintained with a complement of personnel for all established positions. And in this context, in the year 2025-2026, the total cancellation of the moratorium on the vacant positions established by the Government for the National Armed Forces is recommended.



Through the assumed commitment to the development of the National Armed Forces and through a responsible approach to security challenges, the Republic of Moldova strengthens its position as a credible partner internationally, while offering its citizens more security and confidence in a secure future. The continuation of the European path, as well as the deepening of bilateral and international partnerships correspond to national security interests and contributes to peace and stability in the region.

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