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The Moldovan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and Amnesty International express their solidarity with the Belarusian National Platform regarding the Presidential elections of 9 August 2020 and political situation in Belarus

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The Moldovan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and Amnesty International express their solidarity with the Belarusian National Platform regarding the Presidential elections of 9 August 2020 and political situation in Belarus. We are also sharing the concerns expressed by the European Union, U.S. Department of State, OSCE/ODIHR, Venice Commission and some countries. We are deeply concerned on the multiple incidents of excessive use of force and violence of the law-enforcement bodies against Belarusians protesters, including on women and minors and condemn the reprisals and arbitrary detention of political opposition and peaceful protesters. We urge the Belarusian government to stop all acts of violence and the persecution of protesters, to respect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and of the press and to release all unfairly detained and all political prisoners. We also would like to remind the Belarusian authorities its international obligations under the main human rights treaties such as UN Convention Against Torture, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

According to the Belarusian National Platform**,** Presidential Elections in Belarus on 9 August 2020 have been accompanied by massive violations of human rights and can by no means be regarded as free, transparent and democratic.

According to the Belarusian NGOs, t**he electoral process at all of its stages did not comply with a number of basic international standards for democratic and fair elections and was accompanied by numerous violations of these principles and requirements of national legislation.**

On the evening of 9 August 2020 thousands of people went out on the streets of their cities. The Belarusian authorities deployed disproportionate and unacceptable violence against peaceful protesters. This inadequate and violent reaction of the security and police agencies is therefore the cause for the escalation of the violence.

The Moldovan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and Amnesty International strongly condemn the statement made by the President of the Republic of Moldova, on behalf of the Moldovan people. On 10 August 2020, Mr. Igor DODON, congratulated Mr. Aleksandr LUKASHENKO of being elected as President of Belarus. The Moldovan President rushed to express his congratulations ignoring severe concerns about compliance with electoral standards and repressions of the peaceful protests. We consider this statement represents neither the majority of the Moldovans nor of the signatories of this statement. The people of the Republic of Moldova, in solidarity with the Belarusians, respect the highest standards and fairness of the electoral process and the right to peaceful protest.

The Moldovan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and Amnesty International express their solidarity with the Belarusian National Platform **and Belarusian people and in accordance with the principles of democracy, rule of law and peaceful assembly** urging the authorities of Belarus to:

- immediately stop the escalation of violence on the streets;
- immediately stop the excessive use of force and violence against protesters;
- release immediately and unconditionally all arrested protesters and all political prisoners;
- acknowledge the Presidential elections not eligible due to massive law violations;
- start negotiations with the teams of alternative candidates, opposition parties and civil society organisations about new Presidential elections being controlled by Belarusian society and international organisations;
- ensure fundamental legal safeguards for those apprehended and arrested, including access to medical care and lawyer from the very outset of the deprivation of liberty;
- to create an independent public commission based on the international good practices to continue investigations **into the events followed after the presidential elections to conduct a thorough and independent investigation into all committed incidents and bring all those responsible to justice and provide redress and rehabilitation to the victims.**

Moldovan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civic Society Forum was created in 2011 and currently has 85 member organizations, 6 of these members being umbrella-organizations for other 255 organizations. Its mission is to contribute to the European integration process and advocate for democracy in the Republic of Moldova. The National Platform actively contributes to the advocacy process and monitors the implementation of the Association Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Moldova and other relevant documents that refer to the Eastern Partnership and the relationship between the EU and the Republic of Moldova.

The full version of the declaration in **English** is available **HERE**.

The full version of the declaration in **Romanian** is available **HERE**.

The full version of the declaration in **Russian** is available **HERE**.

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