President of Moldova Igor Dodon sends greetings to participants in Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church

Mr. Igor Dodon, President of the Republic of Moldova, sent a message of greetings to the participants in the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church.

To the participants in the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church

Your Holiness,

All-Honourable Archpastors,

Allow me on behalf of the Orthodox people of Moldova and on my behalf to congratulate you on the opening of the Bishops' Council that marks the centenary of a greatest event – restoration of the Patriarchate in the Russian Orthodox Church.

For centuries the fraternal Orthodox peoples have been living together in one cultural milieu under the omophorion of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. Common history and preservation of the Orthodox faith are becoming a most important factor that consolidates society in its efforts to respond to the global challenges and problems of today's world. The development of relationships between our nations in all spheres helps us enrich each other spiritually and preserve our shared values.

The Orthodox faith is the corner stone of the Moldovan national and cultural identity. For many centuries the Orthodox Church has been taking an active part in building up and strengthening the Moldovan statehood.

Today the Orthodox Church in Moldova unites thousands of believers on both sides of the Dniester. Together they strive to serve their homeland and people, help their neighbours and implement topical and significant initiatives aimed at facilitating cooperation between the Church and society and preserving traditional values of this nation.

As President of the Republic of Moldova, I will consistently defend the national and religious integrity of our people and promote the role of the Church in society, upholding the traditional family values and the unity of the Orthodox nations.

I believe that the wisdom and concerted efforts of the members of the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church will make their contribution to the promotion of peace and mutual understanding between people, nations and countries.

I sincerely wish to the Bishops' Council successful work, and to all its participants – peace, goodness, wellbeing and God's help for many and good years.

With hope and faith,

Igor Dodon

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