



Statement

**by H.E. Mr. Cristian DIACONESCU,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,**

**Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies,
New York, September 24, 2009**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to be today at this meeting, the first after the Lisbon Ministerial Conference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Portugal for the intense activity performed during its mandate as President of this Community, as well as for the successful hosting of the Community of Democracies Fifth Ministerial Conference.

I also wish every success to the Lithuanian presidency in raising the profile of the Community. What we, as a member, expect most from this Presidency is a higher degree of transparency, an improved communication and last, but not least, an ever more visible stance against attacks on democracy. We need to commend even the smallest progress in those areas where democracy needs to be encouraged.

I am not going to restate our achievements or our shortcomings. We have done that during the recent Ministerial Conference. We have also done our share in making suggestions on ways and means to overcome those shortcomings and to make our organization more visible and proactive on the world stage.

We have paid close attention to the activities undertaken by the Permanent Secretariat in Warsaw since June and I am glad to say that we are encouraged by the Secretariat's initiatives. The emphasis placed on such important issues as the role and participation of women in democratic movements or the education for democracy is truly commendable.

I am also glad to learn that the Government of Poland is preparing to host the 10th Anniversary Meeting of our Community in Krakow, in June 2010, with an ambitious agenda.

We are looking forward to that highly significant event and, on behalf of Romania I reaffirm our strong commitment to the core values of democracy as well as our genuine readiness to contribute to making the Community of Democracies a strong and influential process able to considerably advance democracy worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

The reason why I mention Romania's contribution to both CD and ICNRD is to give testimony to the fact that creating synergies between the two – and, perhaps, other – international *fora* aiming to promote democracy is something that can be achieved through national or regional initiatives. Countries participating to both international processes – as well as to other, regional or sub-regional – are better placed in creating such synergies.

It is a matter of principle to practice what we preach. We are advocating active national involvement as the best way to create bridges between various *fora* and regions, and we stand ready to put yet again this idea into practice. It is in this context that I am informing you of Romania's intention to host a regional seminar on out-of-country voting, next year, with the support of the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division.

Two years ago, in a smaller setting, within the Working Group for Regional Cooperation for Democratic Governance, the so-called Working Group 3, which Romania chaired from August 2007 up to the Ministerial in Bamako, Mali, we have launched the idea of organizing a round table discussion on "A Comparative Analysis of Democratic Development Processes in Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe". We have not given up on this idea, which I am submitting for consideration to my colleagues from the two regions, having in mind the potential transformational power of not one national, but two regional success stories.

Mr. Chairman,

Dear colleagues,

Since we have recently celebrated the International Day of Democracy and we hold this meeting at the UN Headquarters, let me conclude by reminding us all the words of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who once said "When the United Nations can truly call itself a community of democracies, the Charter's noble ideals of protecting human rights and promoting 'social progress in larger freedoms' will have been much closer".

Thank You.