



AmCham Moldova
fighting for your business

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DECLARATION OF PRIORITIES

American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova (AmCham Moldova)

Whereas part of AmCham Moldova's mission is to work with the Moldovan authorities and business leaders to foster a more favorable business climate in the Republic of Moldova for trade and investment;

Whereas our mission is advanced in part through open dialogue and a close working relationship with the Moldovan authorities for the purpose of working jointly to create a climate for trade and investment and the growth of all businesses that will result in sustainable economic growth in the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas our mission is underpinned by our values of honesty, integrity, fairness, and social responsibility;

Whereas we make this declaration as part of a continuing effort to promote, accelerate, and enable sustainable economic growth in the republic that will, among other results, equitably grow the tax base, and, subsequently, lead to the prosperity of the whole society ;

We hereby call on the Moldovan authorities to embrace the following four priorities. And we firmly commit AmCham Moldova to working with Moldovan authorities and all willing businesses, business and civil society associations, diplomatic missions, and donors to achieve these priorities for the benefit of Moldova, its citizens, and foreign residents who have chosen the republic as a place to live and work.

The four priority actions include:

I. Combating corruption to create a level playing field for all by:

- a. *Reforming the judiciary system* so that it protects property and investments and protects existing businesses from predatory behavior of state agencies and preferred or 'connected' business leaders
- b. *Ensuring equal application of the law to all companies*, including enforcing tax collection within the shadow economy, to create a fair and reasonable environment for all businesses, to develop and to ensure that clean companies and investors do not pay a disproportionately high amount of taxes
- c. *Creating an environment that discourages corruption* by, among other actions properly compensating and motivating public servants, and adopting stronger penalties for violations, and applying them

II. Developing the workforce to make sustainable economic growth possible and to create jobs by:

- a. *Reforming the education system* to align it to the needs of the real economy – present and future – so that it produces graduates that meet the real needs of the private and public sectors in Moldova
- b. *Improving the working and living environment* so that there are incentives for skilled and well-qualified Moldovan citizens to stay in the country and for Moldovans living and working abroad to return home
- c. *Simplifying immigration rules* to more easily permit qualified foreign professionals and their families to live and work in Moldova when they fill jobs for which shortages exist within the local labor market
- d. *Reforming the Labor Code and related regulations* to create conditions that maximize labor productivity, while protecting essential workers' rights and growth of high-employment sectors

III. Improving the ease of doing business to stimulate trade and investment by:

- a. *Eliminating barriers to doing business and daily bureaucratic hassles* so that businesses can operate freely and remain focused on activities that create value for Moldova
- b. *Reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade* so that Moldova's economy can be more integrated with that of the global economy hereby stimulating trade, investment, and competition
- c. *Improving infrastructure* to reduce the cost of doing business and encourage new investments in agriculture, manufacturing, and the services, such as transportation, information communication technology (ICT), and tourism
- d. *Improving predictability of the business environment* by establishing medium- and long-term tax policies, ensuring that primary norms are only at the level of law, prohibiting the proliferation of rules introduced within normative documents, and making pre- and post-analysis of changes to the legal and regulatory framework compulsory

IV. Improving dialogue with the private sector to align public and private priorities for development by:

- a. *Improving transparency of the decision-making process* by not making or amending laws, regulations, decisions, orders, etc. unless they have passed through a robust consultative process involving the private sector and civil society, and by not substantially changing them after the consultative process
- b. *Improving feedback to the private sector* by clearly explaining why private sector proposals and recommendations, developed and delivered in good faith, are not accepted
- c. *Creating a communications framework* to actively and routinely solicit input from the private sector about their needs; on issues affecting the business climate; and on what sectors of the Moldovan economy should be considered as drivers of future economic growth and employment