Opening remarks of the Prime-minister of the Republic of Moldova,

Mr. Pavel FILIP

Regional exercise for Europe and CIS for Applied Learning for Emergency Response Teams „Cyber Drill ALERT"

Honorable delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this regional event - "Cyber Drill ALERT", which brings together cyber security response teams from all across the region.

I would like to thank the expert teams for coming to the Republic of Moldova and the willingness to share their experience in this field.

Particular gratitude should be granted to the International Telecommunication Union for supporting the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure as well as the Center for Special Telecommunications in organizing this event, hosted for the first time by our country.

ITU is a stable partner supporting the Ministry of ICT of the Republic of Moldova in exercising its mandate, being the institution where I served as a Minister in my previous mandate, for which I would particularly want to express my appreciation.

The cyber security problem goes beyond the real borders in the easiest way, and at the same time, the virtual environment attracts us, and conquers us more and more.

The desire of everyone to benefit from the results of technological progress is natural, but equally natural should be our readiness to face new challenges and to implement solutions on time, so that we could ensure our safety and development.

In this respect, the exercise to be held in Chisinau these days will be a suitable platform for the mutual exchange of knowledge meant to improve communication and response capabilities to cyber incidents, alleviate virtual risks and increase confidence in the digital space through regional and inter-regional cooperation. This exercise will serve to identify and proliferate solutions to overcome threats and challenges in the cyberspace, clarify the role of Governments, national cyber response teams and electronic communications operators.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova pays special attention to the subject of cyber security and under the umbrella of *the National Digital Moldova 2020 Strategy*, has been developed a public policy dedicated to this sensitive issue - *the National Cyber Security Program*. In this process, a number of actions have already been launched; others are due to be launched in the nearest future. Conceptually, international cooperation and regional interaction have been included in this Program as priority directions, and this kind of events, with the participation of national and international experts in the field, serves basic goals by increasing cyber security capabilities and awareness.

Honorable audience,

The development of the information and communication technology sector is recognized as one of the most important elements for Moldova's new way of economic growth.

With the strong support of the International Telecommunication Union and in close cooperation with other dedicated development partners, the Republic of Moldova manages to implement its Digital Agenda. It covers the basic directions for creating a modern information society: communication infrastructure, digital content, ICT education, cyber security and the digital economy.

The key achievement is that all our partners in this process from within and outside the country have accepted this vision and actively contribute to its implementation.

Progress in infrastructure development has allowed us to achieve, in a short period of time, the growth of Internet users' number to about 75% of population. This has generated a high demand for locally developed digital content.

In order to meet these expectations, a number of sectorial programs have been implemented, which aim to increase the accessibility and transparency of the Government, as well as the quality of public services – in line with our citizens expectation. For these reasons, in some segments, it was necessary to review the institutional framework and optimize the processes - the creation of the Public Service Agency, being our answer to this challenge.

Government efforts provide dynamism through its own example of developing Information Society services at country level, proliferating inclusion and emphasizing two other key dimensions - the need for ICT knowledge and increased cyber security.

Moreover, these transformational processes at the country level raise the value of the IT and communications industry, making a dedicated approach to this economic sector necessary. That is why we went with well-targeted measures to support the creation and development of IT parks and the national network of ICT-based innovation centers, like this wonderful center that hosts us today.

Thus, the horizontal IT proliferation brings us to a new economic reality- the digital economy, and the need for online safety and security become vital.

Ladies and Gentleman,

In order to meet new demands and expectations of the society, all the parties involved should maintain an open and permanent dialogue via stable exchange of information and knowledge.

This is our approach and I use this opportunity to once again express my gratitude to all of the participants to this event, wishing you all interesting experience and productive work within during the next sessions!