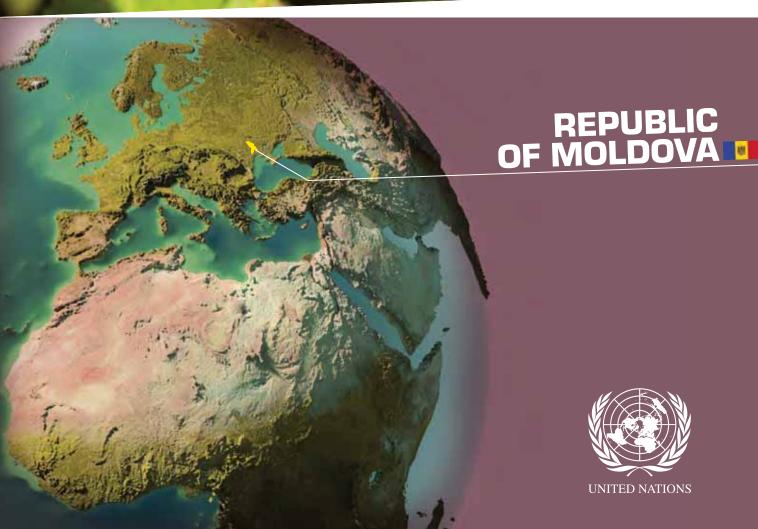
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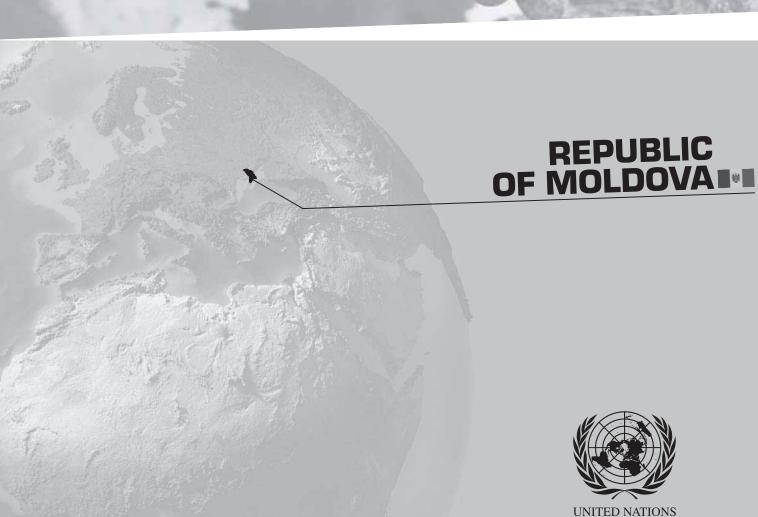






investment policy review





New York and Geneva, 2013

Note

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The following symbols have been used in the tables:

- Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or not separately reported. Rows in tables have been omitted in those cases where no data are available for any of the elements in the row. A dash (-) indicates that the item is equal to zero or its value is negligible.
- A blank in a table indicates that the item is not applicable.
- A slash (/) between dates representing years for example, 2009/10, indicates a financial year.
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- Reference to the "dollars" (\$) means United States dollars, unless otherwise indicated.
- Annual rates of growth or change, unless otherwise stated, refer to annual compound rates.
- Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

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UNCTAD/DIAE/PCB/2013/5
UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION

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Preface

The UNCTAD Investment Policy Reviews (IPRs) are intended to help countries improve their investment policies and to familiarize governments and the international private sector with an individual country's investment environment. The reviews are considered by the UNCTAD Commission on Investment, Enterprise and Development. The recommendations of the IPR are then implemented with the technical assistance of UNCTAD. The support to beneficiary countries is delivered through a series of activities which can span over several years.

The Investment Policy Review of the Republic of Moldova, initiated at the request of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, was carried out through a fact-finding mission in December 2011, and is based on information made available to UNCTAD until March 2013. The mission received the full cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies, in particular the Prime Minister's Office. The mission also had the benefit of the views of the private sector, foreign and domestic, and the resident international community, particularly bilateral donors and development agencies. A preliminary version of the recommendations was discussed with stakeholders during a seminar in Chişinău in June 2012. The final report reflects comments from various stakeholders in the Republic of Moldova, including Government ministries and agencies. The report also benefited from discussions with the UNDP Office in the Republic of Moldova and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova.

The analysis is based on the 11 core principles of the Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development (IPFSD) developed by UNCTAD and released in the *World Investment Report 2012* (http://ipfsd.unctad.org). For the Republic of Moldova, key among them are the following two: (1) policy coherence, predictability and stability of rules; and (2) good governance in the implementation of the rules and administration of business, including transparency about providing information by authorities of a host country that is relevant to making informed business decisions. It follows to a large extent the national investment policy guidelines of the IPFSD, which deal not only with concrete measures to formulate investment policies and regulations but also on ensuring their effectiveness, especially in terms of grounding investment policy in development strategy and ensuring implementation and institutional mechanisms for policy effectiveness.

Building on an analysis of the economy of the Republic of Moldova and a critical assessment of the investment framework, this Review proposes strategic directions for the improvement of FDI attraction and promotion. Chapter I presents the main national development objectives, including in respect to FDI, before analyzing the key economic and social determinants for FDI and assessing recent FDI performance and its impact on the economy. Chapter II evaluates the legal and regulatory framework for FDI and domestic investment. Chapter III outlines an FDI strategy, based on the analysis of the previous chapters. It suggests making FDI a policy priority for the sake of national development, eliminating the main bottlenecks to FDI attraction, attaining excellence in regulating and administering investment, and upgrading the country's investment promotion efforts to levels that are compatible with the high priority attached to FDI attraction.

This report was prepared by the Investment Policy Reviews Section under the supervision of Chantal Dupasquier, Chief of the Section. Joerg Weber, Head of the Investment Policies Branch in DIAE, and James Zhan, Director of DIAE, provided overall guidance. The report was written by Kalman Kalotay, Alexandra Mincu, Irina Stanyukova and Zbigniew Zimny. Substantive contributions from Hamed El-Kady and Massimo Meloni are also acknowledged. The report benefited from comments and suggestions from UNCTAD colleagues, including Kiyoshi Adachi, Richard Bolwijn, Masataka Fujita, Joachim Karl, Elisabeth Tuerk and Paul Wessendorp, under a peer review process. Cletus Dordunoo provided editorial support. Philipp Großkurth provided research assistance. This report was funded by the Government of Sweden.

Geneva, July 2013

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