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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS

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Our Ref.: TP/GP/GJ/59

Paris, 4 May 2026

Subject : ICOMOS Heritage Alert - expression of concern and request to enhance the legal protection of surviving structures of the Republican Stadium Complex, Chişinău, Moldova

Your Excellencies,

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), together with its International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage (ISC20C), writes to express its concern regarding the future of the surviving historic structures of the Republican Stadium Complex in Chişinău. We respectfully urge the competent authorities of the Republic of Moldova to take immediate steps to ensure their full protection and conservation, including by initiating their designation as individual historical monuments in the Register of Monuments of the Republic of Moldova.

The surviving elements of the complex, namely the two main gates, the three secondary gates with their allegorical decoration, the administrative building, and the remaining perimeter walls, - are not merely isolated remnants - but constitute a rare surviving example of early post-war socialist realist sports architecture in Eastern Europe, with national and international significance. They embody a distinctive synthesis of classical, Renaissance, and Stalinist design principles and motifs, executed with a level of craftsmanship that distinguishes them even in comparison with other major stadium complexes in Moscow, Kyiv, Warsaw, and Tbilisi.

While similar examples of sports architecture and mass-infrastructure in other Eastern European and Western Asian contexts have already been lost completely or profoundly altered through redevelopment, the remains of Chişinău's stadium complex partly survive as an increasingly endangered heritage asset whose preservation is critical for both national memory and for international scholarship.

In particular, the complex reflects the transnational architectural dialogue that shaped Soviet-era monumental construction, making it not only a local landmark but also a significant reference point in the broader history of 20th-century architecture. As such, the site serves as a key case study for understanding sports architecture under socialist regimes and offers valuable insights for comparative research on post-war urban reconstruction across the Soviet Republics and the wider Eastern Bloc.

It has come to our attention that plans for the construction of the new Embassy of the United States of America on the grounds of Chişinău's Republican Stadium may place these surviving historic structures at risk. While we acknowledge that the site lies within a protected historical area, this alone may not be sufficient to ensure the long-term conservation of the individual

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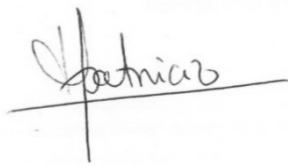
structures of highest heritage value. In our view, the significance of these surviving elements warrants legal recognition in their own right. We further urge that no demolition, dismantling, relocation or inappropriate alteration of these structures be permitted pending such reconsideration.

We trust in your commitment to safeguarding Moldova's 20th century architectural legacy and would be honoured to collaborate in this effort. ICOMOS, through both ISC20C and ICOMOS Moldova, stands ready to support the responsible authorities in establishing clear parameters for the preservation of this valuable cultural heritage in accordance with international standards.

Please accept, Your Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

The Heritage Alert will be published on the ICOMOS website www.icomos.org and disseminated through our social media channels.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa Patricio
President of ICOMOS



Grethe Pontoppidan
Co-president
ICOMOS International Scientific
Committee on Twentieth Century
Heritage

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a non-governmental, not for profit international organisation, committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage. The ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C) focuses on promoting the conservation of twentieth-century places and advocating for sites that are at risk due to neglect, disfiguration and/or development pressure. www.icomos.org

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