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12th February, 2024

Prof. Ion Tighineanu
President, Academy of Sciences of Moldova
Bulevardul Ștefan cel Mare și Sfint 1, MD-2001,
Chișinău, Moldova

Dear Prof. Tighineanu,

First of all, I must state that I am very privileged and proud to be an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. However, I am also sad, disappointed, and concerned to read in the media from Moldova that the Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office intends to move to the Academy headquarters. This is indeed a very disappointing development and I hope that this does not happen.

I am sad because the Academy building is a heritage object that must be protected by the state (according to the law). The Museum of Science and the Exhibition of Scientific Achievements are under renovation at the Academy. I am disappointed because over the last years, the Academy of Sciences of Moldova has created communication platforms, and biweekly lectures are delivered by internationally recognized personalities in the Blue Hall of the Academy. I am concerned because the building of the internationally recognized Academy of Sciences of Moldova possesses an infrastructure designed for scientific activities. Furthermore, as per its design to suit as a venue for scientific fora, it is completely inadequate and unsuitable for the activity of the Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office.

Whatever little free space may be available, it can be allocated to the National Agency for Research and Development or other agencies dealing with research and development. As an Honorary Member of the prestigious Academy of Sciences of Moldova and of the Academia Europaea, I strongly support that the building be maintained as a home of the Academy for perpetuity. Indeed, activities of the Academy are incompatible with those of the Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office.

Thus, I am writing to convey my hope and wish that the authorities will identify a most reasonable solution for this situation and maintain the building as home of the prestigious Academy of Sciences of Moldova. With regards to your invitation, I am planning to visit in 2024 and make a scientific presentation in the prestigious building of the Academy.

With hope for a right decision by the authorities,

Sincerely,

Rattan Lal
Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science
Director, CFAES Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration (Lal Carbon Center)
IICA Chair in Soil Science & Goodwill Ambassador for Sustainable Development Issues
Adjunct Professor at the University of Iceland and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute