

Romania's Intervention for the General Debate
- the 69th Executive Committee of UNHCR -

Thank you, Madame Chairperson,

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the High Commissioner's engaged action and his leadership over the Agency in the most challenging circumstances. A succession of humanitarian crises, new and ongoing conflicts has continued to cause massive displacement in South East Asia, the central part of the African continent, the Middle East and the Americas.

The number of forcibly displaced people has reached an unprecedented level. Unfortunately, this number is increasing even further, reaching 68.5 million people.

The Global Compact for Refugees, through its ambitious objectives, offers a new perspective for action and involvement. Identifying new solutions, creating new mechanisms of solidarity - through a predictable and equitable burden and responsibility sharing - in order to offer a better protection and assistance for the refugees and to support host countries and communities are at the core of GCR. The Global consensus on the Compact echoes the collective political engagement for a stronger international response to the increasingly complex refugee situations. The implementation of the Compact has to benefit from the same level of engagement, support and focus of our political will in order to achieve its goals: easing pressure on host countries and communities, enhancing refugees' self-reliance, expanding access to third countries solutions and supporting conditions for voluntary return in safety and dignity.

Madame Chair,

Romania is committed to the protection of the refugees as an emergent donor, relocation state and promoter of the humanitarian agenda. Romania invests in the social insertion of the refugees and, in cooperation with UNHCR, operates a continuous evaluation of the refugees' needs, the exchange of good practices and the cooperation with host communities in order to avoid racist and xenophobic attitudes. At the same time, Romania uses its Official Development Assistance for implementing education and development projects in countries of refugees' origin so as to address some of the root causes of the current phenomenon.

Romania is currently modernising its national mechanisms for international humanitarian assistance so as to better respond to the current and future challenges in this area.

We have closely worked with the UN Agency for Refugees in order to provide the best and most efficient procedures in the evaluation of the needs for international protection of the asylum seekers. The Romanian Government and UNHCR have developed a significant cooperation concerning the resettlement, the safe access and the legal access for refugees, in an ongoing process that will continue in the next period of time.

Also, this year we mark the 10th anniversary of the Emergency Transit Centre for Refugees located in the city of Timisoara, facility that is part of our share of international response. I am pleased to inform you that the Centre is undergoing a process of expansion and modernization that will be finalized in the course of 2019, and will allow it to ensure assistance at even higher standards for vulnerable refugees in critical situations.

Madame Chairperson,

On the 1st of January 2019, Romania will assume the six months Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In this capacity, my country will continue to support, in a spirit of solidarity and responsibility, the joint projects and programs of the EU on migration and humanitarian issues.

The decisions adopted by the European leaders in June 2018 on this topic, the European priorities concerning the multilateral action and the Romanian priorities for the period of our Presidency would pave the way for the promotion of effective solutions, within a comprehensive approach on migration and refugees: an extended collaboration with third countries, as well as working towards a more efficient EU asylum policy, adapted to the new realities on the ground, reflecting the principles of solidarity and responsibility while ensuring the safety of the EU borders.

Romania strongly appreciates the active involvement of the UNHCR in the preliminary discussions on the possible development of the setting up of *regional disembarkation platforms* within tailor-made partnerships with third countries. We encourage the continuation of this dialogue in order to be able to put to good use the best expertise on refugees in order to clarify the practical elements of this project, as well as its modalities for implementation.

Romania will pay particular attention to all aspects of migration during its mandate as the Presidency of the EU Council and will try to make a constructive contribution to formulating effective and consensual solutions.

Thank you.