



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

69th Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner for Refugees

Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova Delivered by H.E. Mr. Mihail Beregoi, State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior (Geneva, 1 October 2018)

Esteemed Chairperson,

High Commissioner,

Honourable audience,

As we witness new and continued conflicts, and ever-more disturbing forms of violence and persecution, Republic of Moldova shares the concern of the High Commissioner regarding the increasing humanitarian needs and forced displacement.

Our country highly values the activities of UNHCR in providing international protection and safeguarding the rights and well-being of refugees. Today, the lives of millions of people are at risk on perilous routes while fleeing war, violence and human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, seeking safety and protection. Regardless of their status, countries must ensure effective protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while implementing policies that address the movement of refugees.

Madame Chair,

As we continue to face large-scale influxes and mixed movement of people in many regions of the world, the Republic of Moldova firmly believes that response measures to this phenomenon should be guided by the principles of and respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention on Refugees. The New York Declaration reaffirms that international cooperation is an essential element to refugee protection and it also underlines the leadership of UNHCR in tackling this pressing phenomenon.

We welcome and support the elaboration of Global Compact on Refugees that will set forth concrete application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The CRRF offers a chance to strengthen protection and deliver more sustainable solutions for refugees and host communities with the aim to improve access to services, create employment opportunities and improve protection for both the displaced and host countries, while protecting and supporting the most vulnerable.

Madame Chair,

In this context, the Republic of Moldova is already successfully implementing the CRRF objectives, ensuring that refugees have access in similar conditions as for its citizens, to all forms of education, including university, healthcare, social assistance, and access to the labour market. We are firmly convinced that through education provided in safe and non-discriminatory conditions we ensure an

effective integration into society and in a long-term perspective it could serve, through returnees, as a catalyst for recovery and reconstruction in the countries that have emerged from the conflict.

The Republic of Moldova pays particular attention both to observing the rights of refugees and to preventing their social exclusion by facilitating their economic and social integration. Our country recognizes the contributions that refugees may bring to sustainable economic development, thus creating special conditions to ensure refugee access to the labor market. We will continue the work in this regard in order to create conditions for growth, employment and education that will reduce the degree of economic dependence of refugees on individuals or authorities.

We believe that provision of integration mechanisms from the earliest phases is essential both from a human rights and social cohesion perspectives. Effective integration programs enable refugees and their families to enjoy equal rights and opportunities in the social, economic, and cultural life of the country and to contribute their skills and experiences to their host community. We recognize that the ability for refugees to live and build their future where they are, reduce onward movement and leads to the creation of fair social conditions that, as a result, benefit the whole society.

The Republic of Moldova continues to consolidate the national integration system. In this regard, a draft law which will amend the national legislation on the integration of foreigners has been elaborated. In order to facilitate the integration process, emphasis will be placed on cooperation between central and local authorities and the non-governmental sector. We are convinced that, today, investing resources in integration policies contributes to the long-term creation of a more prosperous and inclusive society. Successful integration of refugees is a matter of common concern to the authorities, civil society, and especially refugee communities.

Madame Chair,

The Republic of Moldova strongly supports UNHCR's Campaign to End Statelessness #IBelong. Our country has acceded to the both statelessness conventions and developed a national statelessness determination procedure. Following the latest changes in the citizenship law of the Republic of Moldova, the procedure for the recognition of citizenship for persons born on the territory of the Republic of Moldova was simplified. Thus, persons who are not registered by the competent authority as citizens of the Republic of Moldova and who have no proof of citizenship are automatically recognized as citizens of the Republic of Moldova. We appeal to all states to support their efforts to flight statelessness, to provide stateless persons with protection and support UNHCR's #IBelong campaign.

**Madame Chair,
Honorable audience,**

Finally, let me assure you, High Commissioner, that the Republic of Moldova will continue to be a strong partner of UNHCR and continue to support your organization in finding solutions to the global challenges of refugees that we face today.

Thank you.