

70th Session of the UNHCR ExCom
Statement by the Republic of Moldova

**Esteemed Chair,
High Commissioner,
Honorable audience,**

Allow me to begin by commending the High Commissioner for his informative opening speech and the participants in the panel on statelessness for their valuable and passionate contributions, which will make us to be even more involved in solving the problems raised. The Republic of Moldova welcomes the efforts undertaken by the United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees which are aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities. My country aligns with the statement by the European Union on agenda item 3.

We regret to note that the number of forced displacements remains alarmingly high and continues to increase. Protracted refugee situations give serious cause for concern. Meanwhile, the international community is struggling to provide adequate protection and humanitarian assistance, but the growing number of refugees worldwide shows that there are still measures to be taken in order to stop cases that cause massive human movements.

The Global Compact on Refugees offers a new perspective for action and involvement. Its effective implementation is an opportunity for international community to stand in solidarity by sharing the global responsibility in hosting refugees.

We welcome the already positive results arising from the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The Republic of Moldova is of the opinion that humanitarian and development aid can bring sustainable positive results for all. We share the view that by promoting inclusive policies and practices we will create conditions for a better socio-economic inclusion of refugees, including access to health services, education and labor market - which in the long run will lead to better conditions for refugees and their host communities, while also making refugees better prepared for possible return and reintegration in their home countries.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Moldova pays particular attention to strengthening the refugee protection by facilitating their economic and social integration. We recognize the contribution that refugees may bring to sustainable development, consolidation of the national integration system being a priority for our country. In order to facilitate the integration process, emphasis is placed on cooperation between central and local authorities and the non-governmental sector. We are convinced that investing resources in integration policies, contributes to long-term creation of a more prosperous and inclusive society. Effective local integration enables refugees and their families to enjoy equal rights and opportunities

in the social, economic, and cultural life of the country and to contribute with their skills and experience to their host communities.

Mr. Chair,

This year we mark half way of the UNHCR #IBelong campaign to end statelessness, a legal ordeal with devastating effects on millions of people worldwide who do not have any citizenship and lack protection of their human rights. Half way through this 10-year campaign, we already see some positive results. Over the last five years, the number of countries which joined the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness has increased. My country joined both UN Statelessness Conventions and developed a national statelessness determination procedure which provides guarantees for persons of uncertain situation. The introduction of the statelessness determination procedure allowed the legalization of the stay in our country for over 1000 persons with indefinite legal status.

Mr. Chair,

During the implementation of the two above mentioned UN Conventions, over two hundred thousand holders of old Soviet passports have been documented with Moldovan ones. My country's legislation on citizenship is in compliance with international standards. The amendments were made to enable a simplification of the procedure for recognizing the citizenship of persons born on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. 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. Furthermore, we are going to review our legislation on citizenship in order to facilitate the access of stateless persons to our citizenship.

We believe that ending statelessness is an ambitious goal but which must be achieved. The Republic of Moldova will continue to support the UNHCR's #IBelong campaign and urges the countries worldwide to join this exercise and to end statelessness in the coming years, in order to restore the hope of millions of people.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the Republic of Moldova will continue to be a strong partner of the UNHCR and support it in finding solutions to the global challenges related to the asylum and statelessness that we face today.

Thank you.