

Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova
Delivered by H.E. Mr. Mihail Beregoi, State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior
(Geneva, 3 October 2017)

Esteemed Chairperson,

First of all, I would like to thank the High Commissioner for his opening remarks, which address the issues of priority for this committee.

We appreciate UNHCR's leadership and active engagement in preparing the Global Compact on Refugees. In this regard, the roadmap proposed by UNHCR in May 2017 will serve as an efficient tool for ensuring its adoption in a timely manner.

We welcome the inclusion on the agenda of the special segment on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and are confident that the discussions held yesterday and today will help inform the development of the programme of action of the future Global Compact, based on the best practices and lessons learned. We particularly welcome the inclusion in the panel of all the relevant stakeholders, reflecting the „whole-of-society” approach, included in the New York Declaration. The conclusions reached have reaffirmed that CRRF is indeed an opportunity to tackle the unprecedented displacement challenges and offer durable solutions for refugees and host communities.

Nevertheless, an efficient promotion of system of international protection requires the universalization and full implementation of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol as well as of the two Conventions relating to statelessness. The Republic of Moldova stands behind the global campaign launched by UNHCR on the eradication of statelessness by 2024 and is ready to share its positive experience in this regard.

Madam Chairperson,

Despite the efforts made by international community in the last period, forced displacement of people and irregular migration, remains a complex challenge. Refugee crises generate long-term repercussions on those involved and on host countries and communities. This implies the need to intensify international cooperation and complex approach to issues related to the strengthening of capacities of national asylum systems.

Republic of Moldova reaffirms the respect for asylum institution and the right to seek asylum, as well as the observance of the fundamental principle of non-refoulement in line with international refugee standards.

Given the current challenges, the Moldovan authorities have concentrated efforts for: (1) strengthening capacities to ensure refugee rights; (2) development of effective mechanisms for integration of refugees; (3) development of cooperation mechanisms with states in the region in order to identify durable solutions in the field.

In the context of achieving the goal of European integration, the Republic of Moldova has advanced in achieving the objectives of the Association Agreement with the European Union,

which bases the process of modernization of the country according to the European model of development.

The agreement represents, in fact, an excellent roadmap for strengthening institutional capacities in the asylum domain, an added value to ensure a complex response to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

The State provides procedural measures, including for those with special needs, has ensured for asylum seekers and refugees adjustment of the accommodation infrastructure and introduced new services such as psychological assistance services; free legal assistance from the state; establishment of Creative Centers, etc.

The Republic of Moldova is confident that the comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda, in particular the relevant objectives and targets, focused on ensuring the identification of sustainable solutions to migration issues will eliminate many of the vulnerabilities that are currently facilitating the perpetuation of this phenomenon on an unprecedented scale.

Madam Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova supports the commitments set out in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the UN Summit held on September 19, 2016. Considerable efforts have been made in this regard, to ensure fundamental human rights, regardless of his/her status on the territory of the country, as protecting of those who are forced to flee is a global priority and a shared international responsibility.

The Moldovan authorities' attention is focused on ensuring access for refugees to the labor market, education, providing medical services, ensuring mechanisms which facilitate the integration of refugees, reducing the risk of their social exclusion.

During the last year, inter-institutional coordination mechanisms have been developed and implemented in the Republic of Moldova, which ensure the processes of social and economic integration of persons included in the national asylum system, Integration Centers have been established.

In particular, access to education for refugees is ensured - primary, secondary and higher education, under the same conditions as for children - citizens of the Republic of Moldova. We offer quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children. Access to quality education provides fundamental protection for children and young people in the context of displacements, especially in conflict and crisis situations. Mechanisms for early education of refugee children are being developed. Next, the enrollment of refugees in higher education institutions serves as a powerful generator of change, encouraging the inclusion and non-discrimination of refugees in relation to the local population.

At the same time, taking into consideration that economic integration and the existence of a safe and legal source of income represents the best premise for plenary and sustainable integration into society, efforts have been made to open up the labor market to refugees. Information, granting assistance for vocational guidance, recognition of diplomas and qualifications previously acquired contributes to the employment of refugees in the workplace

or economic activities generating income. 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.

Madam Chairperson,

We reiterate that in spite of the economic situation and the existence of the Transnistrian dispute, the authorities of the Republic of Moldova make every effort to ensure a sustainable approach to solving the refugees' problems, their integration into the host society.

Through the undertaken measures, the Republic of Moldova contributes to the achievement of the New York Declaration Commitments.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to assure that the Republic of Moldova shares the view that refugees should not be seen and treated as a burden but rather as an asset. Therefore, my country will further promote human rights; will make every effort to strengthen the national asylum system, so that every person seeking protection in the Republic of Moldova will benefit fully from the fundamental rights and freedoms.

Thank you.