



## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

### 67th 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, 5 October 2016)

Esteemed Chairperson,

High Commissioner,

Honourable audience,

On behalf of the Republic of Moldova, I am honoured to take part in the 67th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee. We hope for a fruitful and constructive discussion on the issues we have on the agenda.

We share the deep concern in regard to the difficult challenges that the international protection system is confronted with. The large movements of people and the amplitude of migration and refugee crises, unprecedented after the World War II, require a global humanitarian partnership capable of delivering the needed protection, as provided by the international law.

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the UN High-Level Meeting on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and the Summit for Refugees held in New York on September 19, 2016. The two high-level meetings allowed the participating states and organizations to discuss principles and policies designed at addressing migration and refugee issues.

In our view, it is important to bear in mind the complex nature of motives that drive people on the move and to make a clear distinction between them. The identified solutions should be proportionate to every individual situation and a comprehensive global long-term solution shall be envisaged - one that goes beyond an ad-hoc emergency response mode.

#### **Mr. Chairperson,**

Although today, the Republic of Moldova is not on the direct itinerary of the massive influxes of refugees, in the last two years the number of applications for asylum in our country has considerably increased. Considering the migration situation in the region, Moldovan authorities take all necessary steps to prepare for a potential influx of refugees.

In our country, we work hard to meet the requirements and the highest standards of asylum. The recent implementation of reforms in migration and asylum has allowed overcoming the standards applied in the former CIS states. As a result of these achievements, our country was included into the jurisdiction of the Regional Office of UNHCR for Europe in Budapest, a novelty for the former Soviet space.

The legislation of the Republic of Moldova on asylum has been adjusted to the rigors of the EU's *acquis communautaire* by way of strengthening procedural guarantees for categories of vulnerable people, particularly minors and unaccompanied minors, by broadening the range of rights provided to refugees in the healthcare sector, access to education and financial support, transposition of the standards established in EU directives into the refugee determination procedure. The latest legislation changes provide full access for refugees to primary, secondary and higher education.

A particular attention is given by the Republic of Moldova to the strengthening of the national system of integration of foreigners in the society. Herewith, the necessary legislative framework has been approved, establishing the inter-institutional cooperation mechanism, and the activities conducted by each public authority to ensure full integration of foreigners in the economic, social and cultural life of Moldovan society. We consider that an effective social integration diminishes the risk of social exclusion of refugees, reduces the risk of acts of aggression and actions of destabilization of public order.

Our country makes considerable efforts to eradicate another global issue – the statelessness, a legal ordeal with devastating effects on millions of people worldwide who do not have any citizenship and lack the protection of human rights. As a party to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Republic of Moldova is successfully applying the statelessness determination procedure to the persons who found themselves into this uncertain situation.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

During the implementation of the two conventions on statelessness by our country, over 200 (two hundred) thousand people, holders of Soviet passports – potential stateless persons, have been documented with passports as Moldovan citizens. We are ready to share our experience with other countries facing similar problem.

The Republic of Moldova shares and supports the global campaign launched by UNHCR on the eradication of statelessness by 2024 and urges the countries worldwide to join this exercise and to end statelessness in the coming years, in order to restore the hope in millions of people in this situation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Honourable audience,**

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the Republic of Moldova will further promote human rights, will make every effort to strengthen the national asylum system so that each person seeking protection in the Republic of Moldova enjoys fully the rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Thank You.**