

Statement of Georgia
Second Global Refugee Forum
Geneva, 13-15 December 2023

Excellencies,

Before addressing the matter, let me express sincere gratitude to Commissioner Grandi and the Swiss Government for co-hosting the Second Global Refugee Forum.

As we speak, the world is witnessing unprecedented levels of forced displacement. My own region has gravely suffered from this problem, where as a result of Russia's continued war of aggression millions of Ukrainians have been internally displaced or were forced to seek refuge elsewhere. We were able to receive and support more than 28,000 Ukrainians, who were forced to leave their homes.

Distinguished Delegates,

As of today, close to 300 000 IDPs are registered in Georgia, who, as a result of several waves of ethnic cleansing carried out by the Russian Federation since 1991, had been expelled from Georgia's occupied regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region. As it is legally attested by the EHCR these people are deprived by the Russian Federation - the authority exercising effective control over the regions - of their fundamental right to return to their homes in safety and dignity.

Let me also draw your attention to the dire humanitarian and human rights situation in the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, where Russia's ongoing occupation and militarization, pose an imminent threat of the new wave of forced displacement.

Mr. High Commissioner,

Georgia pledges to further improve its national legislation on international protection, including through introduction of new EU standards-based rules and regulations that are applicable to Georgian context, while taking into account the current capacity and human resources of asylum authority, Georgia pledges to receive from and share expertise with relevant stakeholders within the scope of Asylum Capacity Support Group. Here, we would like to thank the Swiss Government for its readiness to share its experience with us.

The integration of asylum seekers and persons under international protection remains a key priority for Georgia, as demonstrated by the 2021-2030 State Migration Strategy. State commits to adopting a new policy document for the integration of refugees and asylum seekers, where a government's approach will be explicitly articulated.

Georgia also intends to introduce amendments to the relevant legislation in order to ensure that refugees or humanitarian status holders, if necessary, are eligible to obtain disability status and appropriate financial assistance from the Government.

We also pledge to provide a high quality legal representation for asylum seekers. through establishing a narrow specialization of LAS lawyers in refugee law and harnessing the power of modern technologies.

Furthermore, we pledge to share our experience and knowledge with interested parties in the field of statelessness, including in the field of prevention, equipping stateless persons with equal rights, freedoms and duties, and effective determination of statelessness status.

In conclusion, allow me reaffirm Georgia's commitment to the global efforts in support of of refugees, asylum seekers, IDP and stateless persons.

I thank you.