

**SEVENTY-SIXTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME**

6 – 10 October 2025, Geneva

Statement

of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova, Ambassador Vladimir Cuc

Distinguished Chair,

High Commissioner,

Dear delegates,

The Republic of Moldova aligns with the statement of the Group of European like-minded countries.

Let me first express our profound appreciation to you High Commissioner Grandi for your frank and straightforward assessment about the global refugee crisis which now surpassed the level of 122 million refugees. The causes which are making people to leave their homes are different and complex, while leadership to find solutions and resources is getting increasingly scarce. In this regard, we genuinely hope and welcome the ongoing efforts to bring a sustainable peace to **Middle East**. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** we hope the agreements signed in Washington and Doha earlier this year will be put in practice. The situation in **Sudan** requires continued urgent attention of the international community. Meanwhile, we welcome that refugees from **Syria** have started to return home and hope that the country will advance on its path of recovery and reconstruction.

My country the Republic of Moldova has never really been a destination for refugees. This has changed in February 2022 with the beginning of the Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine. To date over 130.000 of refugees from Ukraine have been recorded in the Republic of Moldova, while more than 81.000 of them are currently benefiting from temporary protection.

Over the years we switched from emergency mode to sustainable response which help refugees but also invest in the hosting communities. In Moldova UNHCR is building an alliance of Cities of Solidarity which help integrating refugees into the local social and economic life. National public authorities are also working closely to implement the National Program on the Phased Integration of Foreigners, including displaced persons from Ukraine, for the period 2025-2027, approved by the Government in May this year. This document formalizes the transition from emergency response to long-term inclusion in national systems. A multisectoral approach aims to ensure access to education, healthcare, the labor market, housing, culture, and social protection. It focuses on creating inclusive integration mechanisms that protect vulnerable groups — including children, women, persons with disabilities. Many actions do not have financial coverage, so we will work closely with development partners in this regard.

An important lifeline for refugees residing in Moldova was and remains the direct cash assistance implemented through the UNHCR. As Moldova together with its partners is working on long-term solutions to support inclusion and integration of refugees – the direct cash assistance program remains an important element of burden-sharing. However, the current funding gap has already cut significantly into the support received by refugees – both in terms of numbers covered and the amount received per person. We note with concern that Regional Refugee Response Plan is only 20% funded. Currently, we are facing further significant reductions in cash assistance or even potential suspension if the necessary resources are not identified. Now, ahead of winter, as we observe new arrivals of vulnerable refugees this type of support remains critical. Therefore, we are very grateful to the countries who have been so far providing funds to help Ukrainian refugees in Moldova and make an urgent appeal to continue allocating the necessary resources.

We are looking with great hope to all the mediation efforts aimed at bringing just and sustainable peace to Ukraine. At this stage the prospect for peace seems to be still far away. In this context, Moldova is currently working on prolongation of the temporary protection mechanism beyond March 2026.

Dear High Commissioner, we appreciate your visit to Moldova earlier this year and your continued advocacy which helped mobilize the support of the international community to sustain the refugee response. I hope and I trust that you and your team continue to take this as a priority.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year, in December, the **Global Refugee Forum Progress Review** will take place. The Republic of Moldova is reiterating its commitment to refugee protection and integration, aligning with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Distinguished colleagues,

On the issue of **statelessness** let me acknowledge the results achieved in the framework of the #IBelong Campaign. Now the Global Alliance needs to carry the work forward and we commend UNHCR assistance in this regard. Moldova stands ready to share its experience in eradicating statelessness with interested countries.

Dear High Commissioner

UNHCR, as the entire humanitarian sector is passing through a very difficult period. We acknowledge your efforts to adjust the organisation to the new painful reality.

It needs to come out of this major challenge as an agile organization capable to provide rapid responses, but also expertise and long-term solutions. To continue being able to help, UNHCR needs our support now.

Thank you