

**Statement by Romania at the Global Refugee Forum
(17-19 December 2019, Geneva)**

*Mr. Secretary General,
Mr. High Commissioner,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,*

- I am honored to represent my country at the first Global Refugee Forum - a unique opportunity to work together towards achieving the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and strengthen our collective response to refugees' situations.
- This is also a good occasion to reiterate our appreciation for the High Commissioner's engaged action and his remarkable leadership over the Agency in the most challenging circumstances.
- Romania as an emergent donor, relocation state and promoter of the humanitarian agenda remains committed to the support of the refugees.
- During its mandate as Presidency of the EU Council, Romania maintained high on the European agenda the asylum and refugee topics and has worked with UNHCR and IOM for refining the concept of "temporary arrangements" to address the crisis situations in Central Mediterranean in a structured manner.
- Romania has played an active role in the re-location of refugees from Italy and Greece in 2017 and recently, in July and August 2019, from Italy and Malta, bringing the total number of refugees relocated to Romania to 740 persons. This will continue also for 2020, in an effort of solidarity and burden sharing.
- This approach will be visible also in the framework of the resettlement program, through which we have received in 2019 a number of 109 Syrian refugees temporarily based in Turkey and Jordan. In 2020, Romania will host another 200 Syrian refugees from Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon.
- As part of our efforts towards enhancing refugee self-reliance, we are in the process of rehabilitation the regional centres for asylum seekers across Romania and increasing their hosting capacity up to 1200 places in the next period. The inclusion process is also facilitated through the access to tertiary education for refugee students.
- The Emergency Transit Centre in the city of Timisoara marks its 11th anniversary this year. It has proven to be a model of good practices and an important tool of international protection with more than 3000 persons having benefited of its assistance. The Centre will receive a new home in a short time, in an endeavour to ensure higher levels of reception for those in need of protection.
- We would also like to express our full support for the UNHCR's Clean Energy Challenge. Moreover, given that our national humanitarian agenda is gradually shifting its focus on the "ecological solutions" dimension, Romania is among the first actors co-sponsoring the Franco-Norwegian initiative „*Green responses to refugees' situations*”. We express our political support towards the integrated

approach linking humanitarian assistance, migration management and climate change.

- I am confident that our Forum will succeed in galvanizing action for solidarity and a renewed ambition to address the consequences of the contemporary drivers of displacement and offer hope to those in need of protection.

Thank you.