

## STATEMENT

of the Head of the State Migration Service of Turkmenistan  
during the plenary meeting of the 74th session of the UNHCR  
Executive Committee

Mr. Amanmukhamet Shikhkulievich Sazakov

Honourable Mr. Chairman!

Honourable High Commissioner!

Distinguished Heads and members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of Turkmenistan, allow me to welcome you to the regular (74th) session of the Executive Committee, wish you fruitful work and express gratitude for the warm welcome and the created atmosphere of co-operation.

Turkmenistan, implementing a peace-loving foreign policy based on the principles of positive neutrality, continues to implement international initiatives in the humanitarian sphere in the UN platform.

Today, the UN is the only universal and legitimate organisation responsible for maintaining peace and security, as the Estimated President of Turkmenistan Mr. Serdar Berdimuhamedov said in his statement to the delegates of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, stressing the preservation of the fundamental foundations of security as the basis of the UN activities.

One of the priority vectors of Turkmenistan's broad international cooperation is deepening strategic cooperation with the United Nations.

For many years Turkmenistan has been defending the principle of the integrity of security and the inalienability of its aspects. As part of this integral approach, Turkmenistan, as a permanent member of the Executive Committee, fully supports and welcomes the focus of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on close inter-State cooperation in ensuring human security.

Turkmenistan, following the priority of human rights, is convinced that political and diplomatic settlement together with socio-economic assistance to refugees and eradication of statelessness remain the main pillars of human security in the world.

Steadily continuing the implementation of the UN Global Campaign "I#BELONG" and having a strong political will and determination, Turkmenistan, under the leadership of the Estimated President Mr. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, aims to completely eradicate statelessness before the end of 2024. We also intend to mention this in the new list of potential frameworks for the December Global Compact Forum on Refugees.

Already today, within the framework of resolving the situation with statelessness, Turkmenistan has granted its citizenship to about 31 (thirty-one) thousand (30,998) stateless persons and residence permits to more than 5 (five) thousand persons. Of which, just recently, on the occasion of the National Day of Turkmenistan's independence on September 27 (twenty seventh) 1301 (one thousand three hundred and one) stateless persons were granted citizenship and 265 (two hundred and sixty-five) residence permits, including two (2) mandate refugees, by a decree of the Estimated President of Turkmenistan Mr. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, on 22 September this year.

With regard to other achievements in fulfilment of the commitments undertaken by Turkmenistan at the High-Level Segment, it should be noted that they have been almost fully implemented. Effective steps have already been outlined to accelerate the naturalisation process many times, based on the results of the update of comprehensive statistics, in order to fully complete the statelessness situation.

It should be noted that UNHCR is making a significant contribution to Turkmenistan's goal that all stateless persons will be provided with the fundamental "right to have rights" by the 24th year.

In the priority positions of the country presented at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan has given a special place in the block of humanitarian sphere to the protection of the most vulnerable categories of people: refugees, stateless persons, migrants, with emphasis on strict observance of the UN Conventions on human rights and statelessness.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there are positive dynamics in eradicating statelessness in the country, in this regard, Turkmenistan intends to hold a regional conference on the above-mentioned issues in 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Honourable High Commissioner as well as all interested parties to actively participate in the work of the Conference.

At the present stage, Turkmenistan continues to take durable solutions for the protection of refugees and stateless persons, including taking into account the gender equality and the implementation of the Ashgabat Declaration following the international conference "Refugees in the Muslim World" held on 11-12 May in Ashgabat with the support of UNHCR, and actively participates in UNHCR's regional campaigns to prepare for the Global Refugee Forum 2023, while carrying out a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of national strategies in conjunction with the Global Compacts on Refugees.

*Dear Mr. High Commissioner!*

*Dear participants!*

Stressing that dialogue is a transformative method of peacebuilding in resolving conflicts and building peace, Turkmenistan continues to call on the international community to multiply its efforts in support measures for stateless persons and refugees in accordance with its national capacities and priorities.

In addition to peacebuilding efforts, addressing climate and environmental challenges to human security is also important.

In that context, we also draw attention to the need to continue a broad dialogue on the climate change, environmental protection and the use of water resources, and, as previously, we propose to use the platform of neutrality for international dialogues.

Turkmenistan is ready to develop multilateral co-operation in strengthening peace, security and ensuring sustainable development that meets the goals of common well-being and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention!