

**Statement delivered by H.E. Vladimir CUC, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Moldova to the UN, WTO and other IOs in Geneva during
the 75th session of the Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme
(Geneva, 14 – 18 October 2024)**

Distinguished Chair,
High Commissioner,
Dear delegates,

We express our gratitude to the High Commissioner for his valuable remarks. We share your global assessment on forced displacement and commend the dedication of UNHCR staff and its partner organizations for their invaluable on-the-ground efforts.

The projected figure of 140 million forcibly displaced and stateless individuals by 2025 is deeply alarming. The ongoing crises in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Lebanon, and many other regions, have uprooted millions from their homes, underscoring the urgency of addressing these humanitarian challenges. Ensuring that UNHCR continues to provide essential protection and humanitarian aid remains critical. We are concerned about **UNHCR's funding gap** and welcome your efforts toward efficiency and prioritisation.

Madam Chair,

Following the war of aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, my country – the Republic of Moldova – has found itself in the midst of a rapidly unfolding humanitarian crisis. The ongoing war continues to leave more and more Ukrainians without shelter, light, heat and other basic needs, while causing immense human suffering, loss of life, and significant destruction. We firmly condemn the unprovoked and unjustified aggression by Russia against Ukraine.

Three years ago, there was just one or two UNHCR staff member in the Republic of Moldova. However, within days of the war's onset, UNHCR's field presence began its crucial work. Mr. High Commissioner, you were among the first of our partners to witness the situation on the ground firsthand.

With the support of UNHCR and other partners, the Government has taken coordinated actions to manage refugee flows from Ukraine – both in transit and those who remained. To date, **more than a million of refugees have entered Moldova from Ukraine, with around 120 thousands choosing to stay in the country.** Most of them are women and children. These figures brought Moldova to be among the states receiving the highest number of refugees per capita, and the first non-EU country facing this inflow. **Over 60.000 received temporary protection and other 16.000 are in line.** In the same context, we are welcoming increased focus on sustainable programming to make sure that refugees presence is contributing to developing and improving conditions in the host community.

The Republic of Moldova has firmly demonstrated its commitment and engagement in ensuring international protection for those seeking refuge in our country. We are very grateful for the Honourable Mention awarded to the people of Moldova, as announced at the Nansen Refugee Awards Ceremony.

High Commissioner Grandi,

At the second **Global Refugee Forum**, Moldova made nine pledges focused on the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, safeguarding child rights, promoting gender equality, mitigating the risk of gender-based violence, as well as addressing issues related to inclusion in national statistical systems, education, documentation. These ambitious commitments reflect the country's dedication to securing and integrating refugees. Moldova is also among the countries that have recently joined the **Global Alliance to End Statelessness**, underscoring the shared goal of eradicating statelessness.

With its accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, Moldova committed to improving the legal status of stateless individuals and reducing such cases. In line with these commitments, the Republic of Moldova enacted a legal framework to determine stateless status, making it one of the few countries with a national procedure for recognizing statelessness as well as procedure for their naturalization.

Distinguished delegates,

The Republic of Moldova joins the previous speakers in **expressing appreciation for the UNHCR works in conducting emergency preparedness and response activities**. We express our deep gratitude for the support provided over these past months by various partners under UNHCR guidance. Protection, prevention and response must remain the overarching priority and main goal of UNHCR's work, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable.

We **welcome the call to scale up humanitarian assistance**. The Republic of Moldova will continue to keep its borders open to those seeking refuge. At the same time, we count on maintaining the necessary support to ease this unprecedented burden and strengthen our resilience.

Thank you.