

**UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**73<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**10 – 14 October 2022**  
**Agenda item 3 (a) vii. General debates**  
**Statement by Romania**

*Thank you, Chair,  
High Commissioner,  
Mr. Chairman,*

Romania fully aligns itself with the EU statement on behalf of its Member States and would like to present the following remarks in the national capacity.

We thank you High Commissioner for your very eloquent and blunt statement which has underline the main challenges for your Office and for the humanitarian community. We congratulate you for your re-appointment and for your wisdom, courage and energy in conducting the organization through such difficult times for humanity. We also congratulate the UNHCR Office and its staff working in the field for their reaction in organizing the humanitarian response in different regions of the world.

Your support, expertise and coordination has been crucial in preparing and providing the right response to the humanitarian crisis and in assisting Member States in the process of delivering the humanitarian aid.

Hunger, economic disruptions of the food supply system, environmental challenges due to climate change, war and other conflicts, disrespect for basic humanitarian principles and values and for human rights, make our world more unstable and unsafe.

*Mr. Chairman,*

Romania condemns in the harshest terms the aggression against Ukraine and reiterates its strong support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Romania also condemns the recent illegal and cruel attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructures in Ukraine which is a horrific and shocking violation of the international humanitarian law and human rights.

Romania remains committed to assisting Ukrainian citizens who are fleeing the regions affected by the conflict and expresses her full solidarity with the Ukrainian people in these very difficult times.

As a neighboring country, Romania has rapidly responded through the European Civil Protection Mechanism with medical supplies, medicines, food, and other humanitarian aid. Romania's response to the current crisis is being carried out in close coordination with the European Commission, EU Member States, other international partners, and international organizations (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Red Cross, International Organization for Migration).

*Mr. Chairman,*

From the beginning of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and until 30 September 2022, at the national level, 2,542,653 Ukrainian citizens entered Romania. More than 80,000 Ukrainian citizens (mostly women and children) remained on the Romanian territory, out of which 4,387 are asylum seekers.

Romania adopted measures to build up, under the European Umbrella “*RescEU*”, a logistic hub, in the Northern part of the country, near the border with Ukraine. This new infrastructure has ensured all the conditions for the storage, management, repackaging and transport to the border with Ukraine of the goods and materials sent by the Member States and international organizations.

Romania has established a clear decision-making and coordinated structures to enable agencies with different law enforcement and operational responsibilities to plan, coordinate and interact effectively on the ground, in order to respond to the humanitarian crisis.

The platform called “*Together we help better*” was put in place for monitoring requests for support from the civil society and non-governmental organizations. Special mechanisms have been created at the governmental level in order to facilitate the cooperation with European and International structures, programmes and organizations.

Romania's response to the refugee crisis is structured on two levels of intervention: emergency assistance and protection. Emergency assistance for the newly arrived refugees from Ukraine is provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In the field of protection, 6 working groups were established in order to adopt and implement measures aimed at the inclusion and protection in the following areas: health, education, work security, housing, vulnerable people, children and young people.

*Mr. Chairman,*

Refugees can work on the territory of Romania, over 6,500 work contracts being registered till the end of September 2022. Housing, training centers for independent living, empowerment and rehabilitation centers, care and assistance centers have been put in place. Furthermore, all Ukrainian children on Romanian territory, including those who do not request protection, according to the Asylum Law, benefit from the right to education in the Romanian educational public system, under the same conditions as Romanian students.

External partners, relevant international organizations and civil society cooperate closely for this purpose with the Government of Romania, ensuring respect for the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights throughout the entire process.

*Thank you, Mr. Chairman.*