



## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

### 71st session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner`s Programme

#### Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Moldova Delivered by H.E. Ms. Mariana Grama, State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Geneva, 5-9 October 2020)

**Esteemed Chairperson,**

**High Commissioner,**

**Honorable audience,**

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the international protection regime and to assist governments in fulfilling these responsibilities.

We note with regret that the number of forced displacements remains alarmingly high in 2020. The refugee situation at present remains a serious problem for the international community. We welcome the action of states to provide adequate protection and humanitarian assistance, but the growing number of refugees around the world shows that more solidarity is needed to prevent the mass movement of people.

At the same time, humanity is facing another problem, which has become global in a very short time, known as COVID-19, which knows no borders, language barriers and does not distinguish in the level of well-being. It threatens everyone on this planet - without exception. This global coronavirus outbreak has undeniably demonstrated that the health of every person is linked to the health of the most vulnerable members in a society, which often include refugees and others in need of international protection. And only if we all, as a global community, work together and show solidarity, we will be able to overcome the pandemic.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

With regret, the pandemic has not spared our country, being registered thousands of cases of contamination COVID-19 infection among the local population, including refugees. I take this opportunity to assure you that all cases of COVID-19 infection among refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons have been treated without discrimination, giving them access to medical care under the same conditions as for the citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

Also, we use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the UNHCR for the assistance provided in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to asylum seekers and refugees on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The support provided by UNHCR in the management of the asylum system during the state of emergency was indisputable.

We reiterate our country's support for the Global Compact on Refugees and reconfirm commitments under the first Global Refugee Forum, namely: ensuring the access of asylum seekers to the healthcare system at the level provided by national legislation for citizens who have access to the compulsory healthcare insurance system; ensuring the basic needs for people accommodated at the Temporary Accommodation Center; extending the period of validity of identity documents issued to asylum seekers, thus giving them lasting access to medical, social and economic services. At the moment, measures are being taken to modify the legal framework in order to implement the commitments mentioned above.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Republic of Moldova recognizes the contributions that refugees can make to sustainable socio-economic development, thus paying special attention to strengthening the national integration system. Our country continues to create conditions for growth, employment and education in order to reduce the degree of economic dependence of refugees on individuals or authorities. Recently, the amendments to the national legislation in the field of integration of foreigners were approved, which will enter into force starting with 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Thus, in order to facilitate the refugee integration process, the emphasis will be on cooperation between central, local authorities and the non-governmental sector. We are convinced that investing resources in integration policies today contributes to the long-term creation of a more prosperous and inclusive society. Successful integration of refugees is an issue of common interest to the authorities, civil society, and refugee communities in particular.

**Mr. Chairperson,  
Honorable audience,**

Finally, let me assure you, High Commissioner, that the Republic of Moldova will continue to be a reliable partner of UNHCR and will continue to support your organization in finding solutions to the global refugee challenges we face today.

**Thank you.**