

**Communicate for 111th Session Council IOM
from the Republic of Moldova**

Your Excellency, General Manager / President,

Honorable assistance,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova, allow us to thank the CEO/General Manager of IOM for the presentation of the Activity Report for the previous period.

The Republic of Moldova fully appreciates the efforts made and the special role of the IOM in coordinating the activities related to the process of ensuring the efficient management of migratory flows at global and regional level, the implementation of the measures that contribute to an orderly and safe migration of persons.

Our country has aligned with several conventions and international and regional treatment in the field of migration, including the implementation of the Global Compact for an Orderly and Safe Migration. We use this platform to reaffirm the position of the Republic of Moldova in respect of international and regional commitments.

At the same time, humanity is facing another problem, which became 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 proved that the health of every person is linked to the health of the most vulnerable members in a society, which often includes migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees in need of international protection. Only if we all work together, as a global community, and show solidarity, we will be able to overcome the pandemic.

The Republic of Moldova, a country in South-Eastern Europe, is largely exposed to migration challenges, at the same time, being a country of emigration of its own citizens, but also noticing the continuous increase of immigration flows in the Republic of Moldova.

The specifics of this position, the bifurcation of migration flows, requires the Republic of Moldova to carefully seek appropriate and sustainable solutions to maintain the national interest, but also to fully ensure the rights of persons involved in migration, prevent any form of discrimination or economic and sexual exploitation.

Mr. Chair,

With regret, the pandemic has not spared our country, being registered thousands of cases of contamination COVID-19 infection among the local population, including migrants and refugees.

I take this opportunity to assure you that all cases of COVID-19 infection among migrants, 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.

In this regard, we inform you that the country has made every effort to ensure the necessary conditions to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. The support provided by IOM and other international structures (*UNHCR, Red Cross*) in the management of the migrants and asylum system during the state of emergency was indisputable.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Moldova recognizes the contributions that migrants and refugees can make to sustain social-economic development, thus paying special attention to strengthening the national integration system.

During 2020, the country made efforts to change the legal framework related to the integration of foreigners, with appreciable efforts to ensure the access of foreigners to the educational, social and medical systems.

It was essential to review and optimize the access of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova to the economic activities, including investment activities, and there were made considerable efforts to implement the arrangements of the Moldova-EU Association Agreement, as well as those arising from the Eastern Partnership.

Mr. Chair,

We are aware that current challenges, especially during the pandemic period, require innovative and strategic approaches in managing migration processes.

In this regard, the priority for the Republic of Moldova is the adjustment of migration and asylum policy documents to the international framework and to the international /regional conventions to which the Republic of Moldova is a part of, the implementation of modern technologies in the field, the development of strategic partnerships and the development of bilateral and multilateral instruments in the process of management and establishment of dialogue platforms in the field.

Internally, the migration process (emigration / immigration) requires coordinated regulation of economic, social and demographic processes; development of migration control instruments; strengthening the capacities of the authorities empowered to administer those processes; ensuring migrants' rights, efficient development of integration policies and assisted voluntary return policies.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Moldova thanks the IOM for its support for the expertise in the implementation of policy documents in the field, and we continue to rely on productive collaboration in providing the needed support for the development of dialogue platforms, including the ones with third countries.