

Statement

**by Ms. Mariana Lucreteanu, State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
of the Republic of Moldova to the 115th session of the IOM Council**

Item 11 General Debate

Chair, Director General, Excellences and Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, I am honoured to address you today reaffirming our commitment to effective migration management, as well as to future collaboration with IOM and international partners.

The Republic of Moldova looks forward to continuing the partnership with IOM on all aspects of migration, acknowledging the priority areas highlighted in the Director-General's Report: saving lives and protecting people on move, driving solutions to displacement and facilitating pathways for regular migration.

We commend the efforts on strengthening IOM core structures, institutional reforms, diversification of funding sources to enhance organization's capacities and respond to emerging challenges on migration landscape.

As the Russia's brutal war against Ukraine is aggravating the humanitarian and displacement crises, we remain committed to host the Ukrainian people fleeing the war, providing protection and facilitating their economic and social inclusion, access to education, jobs and health services.

At national level, our goal today is to concentrate common efforts on increasing capacity of all governmental agencies dealing with public order and security, enhancing resilience capacity of the Republic of Moldova in keeping the safety and security within the borders, but also in the region, as we are neighbouring with the war zone.

The Moldovan national authorities continue their efforts to mainstream migration concepts in policy reform initiatives in line with EU standards.

Preventing and countering trafficking in persons and irregular migration remain a priority. In this respect, a special focus is put on providing accurate information on legal migration opportunities, setting national partnerships and strengthening cooperation with development partners. Moldova's position as a destination or transit country for trafficking in human beings underscores the need for targeted measures to assist victims of trafficking, and those in at-risk situations.

The newly developed National Development Plan 2025-2027 includes a special focus on the integration of foreigners, specifically addressing socio-economic and cultural integration, access to healthcare and specialized services for migrant

children and vulnerable groups, inclusion in educational and cultural activities, employment opportunities for displaced persons.

The implementation of the National program to stimulate returns and facilitate the (re)integration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova involved in the migration process for the years 2023-2027 aims to support our citizens who decide to return to Moldova, to identify solutions for the problems they face during the return process and to provide the necessary support.

We initiated and have been promoting steps towards further labour market liberalization for foreigners in certain sectors of the economy and simplification of admission and documentation procedures for those who want to work or invest in the Republic of Moldova.

With IOM's support, Moldova initiated the amendment of the legal framework on integration of foreigners, in line with the EU acquis, with emphasis on promoting the integration/, creating opportunities for self-employment, investment, business creation, increasing the role of the employer in the integration process, promoting cultural diversity, ensuring the fulfilment of migrants' rights etc.

Distinguished Delegates,

As an early adopter of the Global Compact for Migration (*11.12.2018*), the Republic of Moldova continues to see its value in guiding policy development. The Compact has enabled the Government of the Republic of Moldova to enhance migration governance, address challenges, and maximize the benefits of migration in a country where a significant portion of the population resides abroad.

Moldova's future migration priorities focus on improving its legislative framework to facilitate legal migration and integrate more effectively into the European Union through

- *Expanding Legal Migration Pathways*
- *Continued support for displaced persons from Ukraine, ensuring their safety, access to services, and long-term integration and*
- *Strengthening national institutions to manage migration in line with international and European best practices.*

In conclusion, allow us to once again appreciate IOM's dedicated work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and reassure that Moldova remains committed and will be further engaged in common and supported efforts to put in place policies and practices, and to enhance cooperation on achieving safe, orderly, and regular migration, fostering resilience and sustainable development

Thank you for your attention!