

**Written contribution on behalf of the Republic of Moldova for the second Regional Review Meeting on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Region**

The country has since then made decisive **progress** under three of the four commitments (pledges), assumed under the IMRF-2022, achieving three of them **in full**, and has made significant progress under one:

**I. Developing the new GCM-aligned Moldovan strategic and policy framework on migration and asylum;**

Moldovan Government developed and adopted the new Migration and Asylum Program 2022-2025 (with IOM support; doc is attached). The program derives from the Strategy for the Development of Home Affairs for the years 2022-2030 (Gov. Decision No. 658/2022) and aims to establish well-defined rules and procedures for the admission and documentation of foreigners and increase the quality of services provided to them. It also aims to strengthen the national asylum system, ensure reception conditions in line with European standards, create optimal conditions and motivation for the active participation of foreigners in integration measures, in order to make the most of their potential by excluding marginalization, increase response capacities in the event of a mass influx of persons, including the crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, and enhance the development of the inter-institutional mechanism to increase the safety of the population and contribute to the fight against irregular migration, and respond to targeted objectives and activities towards achieving the objectives included in the National Development Strategy "Moldova European 2030". The Programme aligns with the priorities and objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as well as with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, promoting international cooperation by defining guiding principles and providing a multilateral policy framework. The Programme is aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

**II. Finalizing the development of a GCM-aligned National Program for Re/integration of Returning migrants;**

The Government approved on 30 October 2023 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", a policy document developed with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Through the Program, the authorities aim to support citizens who decide to return to the Republic of Moldova, to identify solutions for the problems they face during the return process and to provide the necessary support for employment on the labour market. Access to medical, social, and educational services for returnees is also to be facilitated. At the same time, according to the approved document, the launch of the businesses of the returned persons will be supported and the experience of the diaspora will be capitalized, which can contribute to the modernization of the country and its economic development.

**III. Mainstreaming migration in the National and sectoral Climate Change Adaptation policies;**

The Government of the Republic of Moldova adopted the National Climate Change Adaptation Program until 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation<sup>[1]</sup> on 30<sup>th</sup> August

2023. This national document incorporates input on migration, environment, and climate change nexus. The draft National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development 2023-2030, which is currently being reviewed by the government entities, also includes input on migration, environment, and climate change nexus. These two documents constitute the Second NAP of Moldova. This contributes to the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Displacement (TFD) of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) of the UNFCCC. Based on this experience and in parallel, - IOM jointly with the University of Vienna has developed an advanced version of the guidance document titled “Addressing Human Mobility-Related Challenges and Opportunities in the Context of Climate Change: A Supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines on the National Adaptation Plan Process”. The Supplement is also relevant regionally and globally, and is made available to other government to share experience on mainstreaming Human Mobility in national planning of climate adaptation process.

#### **IV. Digitalizing the public services to promote people-centred public services for migrants and diaspora.**

The Government initiated work for development of the new General Inspectorate of Migration Informational System, in order to unify the smaller systems and software existing at that time in the various subdivisions, and include additional set of services and procedures, following the modifications to legislation. The new system will underpin the Government’s efforts to modernize public services by digitizing processes, enhancing the access of third country nationals, including the large body of persons displaced by the war in Ukraine, to relevant public services.

**V. Additionally**, the Government amended the Program “Diaspora Succeeds at Home” (DAR 1+3), which was established in 2020 to offer local public authorities tools to encourage and stimulate the implementation of local development projects, jointly with diaspora associations, local associations, initiative groups. For the first time, the components of social cohesion and climate change have been introduced in the DAR 1+3 programme.

The first component aims at supporting the promotion of social inclusion, cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, as well as recovery measures to overcome the socio-economic challenges caused by the current complex crises through local development projects in communities hosting refugees. In support of the first sub-programme on social cohesion, matching grants are offered to support projects implemented in communities hosting refugees from Ukraine. Projects will focus on the development of social and business infrastructures at the community level that will contribute to employment, professional trainings, and the provision of Romanian language courses, as well as strengthening small businesses support services, and expanding social protection services that could benefit both Ukrainian refugees and members of the host community.

The second sub-program aims to promote activities valorising Moldovan diaspora’s contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. To support local diaspora-supported efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation, the program offers grants to support projects promoting biodiversity conservation, clean energy, circular economy, climate-smart agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and green renovation. The grants aim to leverage the financial and human capital of Moldovan migrants, the diaspora, their family members, and migrants returned from abroad, to support the creation of scalable climate change mitigation or adaptation initiatives in Moldova.