



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Gheorghe LEUCĂ

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova

at the UNICEF Executive Board

**on agenda item no. 4 UNICEF programme cooperation (a) Country programme documents (b)
Extensions of ongoing country programmes (*New York, September 6-8, 2022*)**

Madame Chairperson,

I am delighted to participate in the discussions on the agenda item, dedicated to the adoption of UNICEF Country Programs, implicitly for my country for the period 2023-2027.

From the outset, I would like to highlight the importance of UNICEF as a partner of the Moldovan Government in pursuing a complex, child protection centered, reform agenda aiming at creating a better future while ensuring all the rights and forms of protection for the children residing in the country.

In the same vein, let me also express our appreciation for the UNICEF's valuable contribution in promoting and protecting children's rights in the Republic of Moldova under the 2018-2022 Country Programme.

The new Programme comprises the lessons learnt from the previous cooperation framework, thus ensuring improved programming for results, optimized management of resources and further integration of innovative practices.

We welcome the new UNICEF Country Programme developed through inclusive and multistakeholder consultations with the involvement of all relevant national authorities, civil society organizations and development partners, as well as children and youth associations.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has endorsed the priorities outlined in this document meant to ensure realization of every child's right and child protection policies. We emphasize the importance of further enhancing cooperation with all relevant authorities in line with the national key priorities and sectoral policies in the field of child and social protection, violence prevention, education, health, and youth.

We note, with satisfaction, that the strategic priorities set out in the new CPD are aligned with those contained in the United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework 2023-2027, with the key strategic priorities of the Republic of Moldova reflected in the sectorial strategies and programmes for Health, Education, Social and Child Protection and Youth, and with our national priority's lines toward European integration process.

As our country is confronting unprecedented development challenges due to the multifaceted crises, we appreciate UNICEF's valuable contribution to the Government's response efforts, aimed at effectively managing the largest refugee crisis triggered by the military aggression against Ukraine, which carries with it significant humanitarian, economic and security-related implications.

Thus, from approximately 560.000 refugees, predominantly women and children who have entered the territory of the Republic of Moldova, since the beginning of the war in Ukraine around 80,000 refugees remain to date in the country, almost half of them being children, all of them necessitating special protection.

The Republic of Moldova has firmly demonstrated its commitment and engagement in ensuring protection for those seeking refuge in our country, including by putting in place a legal framework to protect and integrate refugees that allowed both documented and undocumented refugees to access the labour market, health services and the educational system.

Nevertheless, the Government is further seeking a coordinated approach to ensure social resilience that would benefit both refugees and the host communities alike. Given the scale of this crisis, against the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic, energy crisis and growing inflation, our capacities and resources are overstretched, and our country requires further support in the economic, energy, health, social, educational, internal affairs, and other sectors to effectively support those refugees and host communities, maintaining stability in the country.

From this perspective, the Programme's assistance in supporting the immediate needs of refugee persons and host communities, including the social inclusion of people fleeing the war, is critical.

In this connection, we would like to state once again that we are grateful to UNICEF and all UN agencies, which have mobilized under the coordination of UNHCR since the first day of the conflict in providing support to Moldovan authorities to effectively manage this crisis.

We especially appreciate UNICEF's involvement and assistance in response to the refugee crisis in the field of child protection, primary health and nutrition, immunization, access to education and psychosocial support.

Against this background, we salute the vision and activities contained in the new County Programme aimed at supporting a better quality of life and inclusion of all the children.

The comparative advantage of UNICEF in such areas as survival, development, family care and protection, health, empowerment and participation, knowledge, and resources, should be fully harnessed in the implementation of the new Programme and we believe that UNICEF's expertise and assistance will highly contribute to the Moldovan Government's efforts aimed at effectively managing the interlinked crises and ensuring the best outcomes for all the children placed in the country and overall to overcoming the multidimensional development challenges and building back better.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova remains committed to working together with UNICEF to achieve the objectives and priorities stated in the Programme and to develop preventive responses for the protection and ensuring the respect of children's rights in any possible crisis or situation.

Thank you.