

**Statement delivered by Mrs. Ala Nemerenco
Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova**

**WHO work in health emergencies
(Geneva, 4 February 2023)**

Madam Chair,
Dear Colleagues,

As we are approaching the date marking one year of ruthless military action in Ukraine we cannot underscore enough the devastating impact of the war onto people's health and wellbeing, as well as the healthcare system in Ukraine. Hospitals and maternities, medical facilities, transports and health personnel should never be a target of military action.

We commend WHO for its swift and comprehensive response to the health emergency in Ukraine. It was and continues to be crucial in keeping the health system operational in times of war and rendering life-saving services, especially in remote areas where medical services are disrupted, systems are overburdened and specialized facilities are damaged or even destroyed.

We are equally grateful to WHO and to the Regional Office for Europe in particular for the valuable constant support offered to the Republic of Moldova as a refugee receiving-country. With limited resources Moldovan authorities have granted full medical coverage to all refugees from emergency healthcare, to primary, including vaccination and COVID-19 diagnostics, supervision and treatment to more complicated and costly cancer or dialyse treatments. Moldova has received over 7 hundred thousand Ukrainian refugees, among them more than 2 hundred 10 thousand children. Within our scarce resources we have deployed humanitarian aid worth of millions Moldovan lei to Ukraine and we will continue to do everything we can to help civilians affected by the war. This is Moldova's participation in the fight for peace.

Madam Chair,

We've been discussing these days about combatting violence against children, but we have not mentioned that the greatest violence against children happens in war zones, in many parts of the world, including Ukraine. Children lives cut short, limbs amputated, eyes that will no longer be able to see, children left with disabilities forever.

We have talked about immunization, the eradication of some infectious diseases, but how can we ensure this if entire territories are involved in the war, remaining uncovered from a sanitary-epidemiological point of view?

We have discussed what we are doing for disabled people, but at the same time, every day, as a result of the war thousands of people remain disabled.

We have also discussed about access to medical services while estimates show that more that 18 million people in Ukraine are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. To date more than 750 attacks on healthcare has been confirmed in Ukraine.

We advocate and plead for peace, for equal access to high-quality modern medical services and modern diagnostic methods. War and crisis alienate people from their most fundamental right to health. Let us also advocate altogether for politicians to stop the wars so that we can all work together for better health for all. Thank you.