

Statement
by Dr. Ala Nemerenco, Minister of Health of the Republic of Moldova
Agenda Item 16 - Implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022)

156th session of WHO Executive Board

Chair,
Director General,
Dear colleagues,

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of the European Union and would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

From the outset, let me reiterate once again Moldova's firm condemnation of the Russian Federation's illegal invasion of Ukraine. We regret that, despite numerous calls for an immediate cessation of military hostilities and full withdrawal, we are here today to witness once again the report of the Director General on the horrific damage that Russia's brutal war is causing to the people of Ukraine and its health sector.

We remain deeply concerned about the increasing number of cruel attacks on health infrastructure and specialized medical facilities, resulting in hundreds of fatalities and injuries, severe disruption of medical supply chains and the forced displacement of health workers.

The Republic of Moldova will continue standing in full solidarity with our neighboring country despite multiple overlapping crises and significant strain on our public resources. To date, more than a million refugees have entered Moldova from Ukraine, with more than 120 thousands choosing to stay in our country, most of them being women, children and an estimated 19% of refugees with special needs because of disabilities. With the introduction of temporary protection mechanism, Moldova has prioritized the health needs of refugees granting access to a range of health services, including emergency care, primary and specialized outpatient care.

We are grateful for the recently announced EU humanitarian aid package for Ukraine and Moldova. The additional funding will focus on supporting Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan host communities, prioritizing cash assistance, access to critical services like healthcare and education, and psycho-social support.

Mr. Chair

The Republic of Moldova commends WHO's commitment in ensuring the effective and accountable implementation of resolution WHA75.11 and its continued support for emergency operations in Ukraine along with the comprehensive approach to address long-term health needs. We also welcome the assistance given to the countries neighbouring Ukraine and hosting refugee communities.

We stand ready to support the joint efforts of WHO and other partners to ensure further implementation of resolution WHA75.11 for maintaining and strengthening the health system in Ukraine under extremely challenging circumstances.

In addition, we support the call to the Secretariat to prepare an updated implementation report on this resolution, as well as a member-state briefing, for the forthcoming WHA78.

The Republic of Moldova remains committed to supporting the restoration of peace in Ukraine. A comprehensive, lasting and just peace that respects Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders is fundamental to ensure the sustainable health system recovery in Ukraine.

Thank you!