



## IOM Intervention at the High- level Forum on Legal Pathways to Protection

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### CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you to the European Commission for the invitation extended to IOM to participate in this Forum.

We support UNHCR's message that the current efforts are not enough; without prejudice to other crises, including Ukraine and Afghanistan - **more needs to be done to ensure that refugees are provided with durable solutions.**

The provision of **operational support to resettlement and humanitarian movement** lies at the **heart of IOM's mandate.**

In the context of Ukraine and Afghanistan, IOM has been able to **set up new structures in neighbouring countries** to provide a swift and urgent responses to support individuals fleeing.

Due to this **targeted resource allocation**, since the onset of the Afghanistan response, IOM supported the resettlement, humanitarian admission and family reunification of 31,569 Afghan nationals.

For Ukraine, IOM supported the transfer of **2,126 beneficiaries of temporary protection from Moldova** to EU Member States and Associate Countries<sup>[3]</sup>.

Additionally, IOM has also supported the government of Ireland with the **registration of over 50,000<sup>[4]</sup> Ukrainian and third country nationals** at various points of entry, facilitating the issuance of the Temporary Protection Certificates.

**IOM's previously shared recommendations on a proposed Union Resettlement Framework Regulation prior to the adoption of the provisional compromise between the co-legislators in 2018;** recommendations included – among others - the need for resettlement to remain a protection and solidarity tool and the importance of sizeable and multi-year planning to ensure predictability for all actors involved.

**The rapid response and resource allocation for Ukraine and Afghanistan situations should be replicated in other contexts.**

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<sup>[3]</sup> Updated as of 22 November 2022; figures are preliminary as data consolidation with input from Country Offices happens twice a year (mid-year and end of the year).

<sup>[4]</sup> Updates as of 15 September 2022; figures shared by Ireland DOJ Statistics Unit



Resettlement is and should remain the preferred and primary pathway for protection with humanitarian admission programs and other complementary pathways as additional to resettlement pledges.

These protection tools have been successfully implemented during both Afghanistan and Ukraine situations and should be expanded and replicated in the future.

Targeted support to resettlement and humanitarian admission is even more critical in times of crisis, including accountability for affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

In response to the Afghanistan and Ukraine situations, **IOM recognized a gap in implementing AAP and Protection mainstreaming measures** at the start-up due to rapid recruitment, ever-changing operational contexts and the establishment of new work sites.

As a result, IOM quickly piloted a **Mainstreaming AAP and Protection in Crisis Project** in Moldova for the EU Solidarity Platform Transfers.

IOM encourages further development in this area to include **cross-training and engagement with operational partners**.

We anticipate based on initial discussions with Canada the United States that we will be able to roll this out in other locations but more resources are needed.

Along the same lines, IOM recommends the creation of a **Resettlement Crisis Platform to streamline communication and information sharing among member states and partners as well as beneficiaries, to mitigate against exploitation, wasted resources and to facilitate transparency**.

During a crisis, such as those in Afghanistan and Ukraine, beneficiaries found it difficult to receive accurate, clear and timely information about the multiple member state programmes; including eligibility requirements and application processes.

For that reason, the platform could be useful for both member states and beneficiaries.

The international frameworks and dialogues in recent years have underscored the importance of innovative solutions, such as complementary pathways, to expand durable solutions under resettlement.

IOM is engaged in supporting the European Commission's objective of expanding labour mobility for refugees as a complementary pathway through the implementation of the project *Displaced Talent for Europe (DT4E)*, funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).