STATEMENT

by the representative of Ukraine at the Third Committee on the agenda item 62. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Ukraine thanks the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for his valuable report that provides us with clear insight of recent general challenges and trends in this field. With the growth of frequency and scale of conflicts on the global map and increasing need for well-coordinated involvement of relevant humanitarian actors, Ukraine highly appreciates activities of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in particular, aimed at finding ways of further strengthening the UN Refugee Agency’s capacity.

We commend the activities of UNHCR in securing international protection of refugees, supervising the observance of their rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international law, as well as facilitating governments in the voluntary repatriation of refugees or their assimilation in the new countries. In this context, my delegation emphasizes the importance of providing UNHCR adequate resources.

My delegation is confident that the process of structural and administrative reforms being undertaken by UNHCR will respond more effectively to the urgent needs of the people of concern to UNHCR and would ensure transparent use of financial resources.

Taking into account the fruitful cooperation between Ukraine and UNHCR hitherto, Ukrainian Government reiterates its readiness to further cooperate with UNHCR and its Regional Representation in Kyiv in order to address current challenges and render assistance to immigrants and refugees seeking asylum in my country.

In this regard we would like to note with appreciation successful implementation of the project on renovation of the Temporary Holding Facility for Refugees in Odessa, Ukraine, which was carried out in the framework of the UNHCR Regional Programme for Refugee Protection funded by the EU.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine unreservedly meets its international obligations under the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, and has a clear
commitment to continue to perform in the future. Building on the vast international experience, Ukraine in a relatively short period of time was able to build a national asylum system in conformity with international and European standards.

Ukraine has adopted a new Law “On Refugees and Persons Requiring Additional or Temporary Protection”, which took into account the abovementioned Convention and Protocol thereto, as well as relevant recommendations and resolutions of the EU.

This Act for the first time introduced supporting institutions of protection: additional and temporary. It also created conditions for granting protection to foreigners and stateless persons that do not meet the criteria of "refugee". This law also contains a provision prohibiting the expulsion or return of persons seeking protection to the country where their lives are in danger.

Moreover, the Parliament adopted a harmonizing Law regulating the access of refugees, which are in need of additional protection, to the social, educational and medical field. The Government of Ukraine also adopted the Action Plan for Integration of Refugees and Persons Need Additional Protection in Ukrainian Society until 2020.

European integration is one of the main priorities of the state policy of Ukraine and the adaptation of the Ukrainian legislation to the EU standards is part of this process. Given the importance of the protection of refugees Ukraine takes appropriate legislative measures as one of the criterion under the Action Plan on Visa Liberalization. We are pleased to note that within our dialogue with the EU the implementation of agreed legislative measures on refugees under the Action Plan, in general, was positively assessed.

Taking into account the aforementioned we can state that today Ukraine has a systemized regulatory framework that provides appropriate conditions for the sustainable development of national asylum system.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.