ROMANIA’s PLEDGE at
UN High Level Ministerial meeting on Afghanistan
13 September 2021 in Geneva

Statement by H.E. Mr. Cornel Feruță,
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Secretary General, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Romania commends the initiative of the UN Secretary General to convene this meeting to address the immediate needs of the Afghan population and the dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

We appreciate this new effort to secure concrete help for the Afghan people.

We continue to strive for an inclusive government formation process, powered by reconciliation and inclusivity. We call on the new de facto authorities to respect human rights, refrain from violence, and rebuild the country, for all of its citizens. Preserving the political, economic and social achievements of the Afghan people since 2001 is a key step for the future Afghans want.

The need for strong international support to Afghan civilians, in particular children and women, is unequivocal, given the significant preexistent humanitarian needs. Conditions for a principled humanitarian aid delivery, including through unhindered and safe access for humanitarian workers and full compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) remain crucial, as stated in the UN Security Council Resolution 2593 (30 August 2021).

It is important to coordinate within the relevant international fora with all states acting in favour of peace and prosperity in Afghanistan. We also need to involve the representatives of front-line humanitarian organizations, in order to be effectively able to offer lifesaving assistance. Romania considers that the UN system should continue to play an essential role in coordinating and delivering the assistance provided by the international community to the Afghan people. This is even more relevant, considering the current limited diplomatic representation in Kabul.

We look forward to further information exchanges in all relevant international fora and via various diplomatic channels, on the strategic approach to Afghanistan, as well as in the region, supporting the pivotal UN role and coordination in an inclusive manner.

We support the continuation of UNAMA and consider that its mandate responded to the needs of capacity and institutional building of Afghanistan.
The UN consolidated Flash Appeal is another useful tool in itself. It brings as much clarity as possible at this point, to a very dynamic context. At the same time, it creates a basis for scaling-up the humanitarian funding.

Currently, Romania focuses on humanitarian assistance for disadvantaged and vulnerable persons (women, children, students on scholarships). Earlier this year, Romania provided a financial contribution to the UN for programs in the health sector dedicated to children, along with scholarships covering the full academic cycle.

The Romanian Government continues to be committed to further contribute to the stability and development of Afghanistan.

We will continue to work with the UN agencies and within the EU through a Team Europe approach in order to support the engagement of humanitarian actors, as their efforts on the ground are essential. Romania pledges a new financial contribution of 100,000 EUR to increase its support to the UN humanitarian response.

In addition to this contribution, allow me to inform you that the Romanian Government allocated almost 200,000 EUR as an emergency expense up to the end of 2021 for 139 Afghans at risk that arrived safely in Romania last week. They will also have free access to medical services, education and social welfare.

Thank you!