



UNHCR Executive Committee 73rd Session 10–14 October 2022

Statement by Slovenia

Mr Chair, Excellencies,

Let me begin by thanking the High Commissioner for his opening remarks and the overview of the current challenges as well as the operating environment of the Office of the UNHCR.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, I would like to use this opportunity to briefly highlight some national endeavours in regard to addressing the needs of displaced people.

As the world is facing a year of unprecedented needs, with devastating effects of complex armed conflicts and the spiralling costs of food and fuel leading to a record number of people on the move, we would like to use this opportunity and extend our congratulations on the re-election of Mr Grandi as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We are happy to see that the organisation has a strong leadership in this very challenging times.

This year, Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine grossly violates international law, including the UN Charter, and seriously undermines European and global security and stability. It has also triggered one of the gravest displacement crises in Europe, as well as worsened humanitarian situation in many other places around the world. We are deeply concerned that the latest developments will further deteriorate the already fragile situation of several million people, most of them women and children.

Mr. Chair,

As a responsible member of the international community, Slovenia devotes special attention to vulnerable groups, including refugees and IDPs. Over the past few years, Slovenia has continued allocating humanitarian assistance for refugees through various international organisations, including the UNHCR.

In this year, our activities were concentrated on assisting refugees and IDPs in Ukraine. Our aid consists of contributions to international organisations, in kind assistance and bilateral projects addressing the needs of refugees and IDPs in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova and Slovenia. We have also welcomed 20 orphans in Slovenia and we pay special attention to the integration of refugee children into our school system.

Slovenia has also contributed assistance for displaced persons from Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine and for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Brazil.

Furthermore, we are implementing three humanitarian projects in Uganda and Lebanon, providing comprehensive assistance for refugees, victims of gender-based violence, implemented by NGOs. Faced by deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, we have doubled our funds for NGO projects, addressing the needs of refugees and IDPs, in the next three years.

To conclude, the situation particularly in the last months remind us that we need a common approach, cooperation and complementarity. Respecting international humanitarian law is the cornerstone of it all. Addressing the root causes of migration is also of utmost importance, as well as creating safe legal pathways for those who need protection. Special attention is also needed in relation to climate - caused migrations and we are happy that we will devote special attention to this important topic in the upcoming COP27.

We see the role of international organisations, UNHCR including, as key in optimising efforts and maximising synergies of all stakeholders. Leaving no one behind should remain our common goal also in the future.

Thank you.