



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNHCR – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
68th Session  
(2. – 6. October 2017)**

**General debate**

**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia  
delivered by H.E. Mr. Vojislav Šuc,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia**

Madam Chairperson,

Let me begin by thanking the High Commissioner for his comprehensive opening statement. Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to present some of its national endeavours in support of refugees.

Mr. High Commissioner,

In your statement you alluded to the increasing complexity of today's global environment resulting in forced displacement, as well as numerous protracted refugee situations. They pose new challenges to humanitarian organisations. We therefore welcome the special segment on Comprehensive refugee response framework in the margins of this Executive Committee and the number of countries and regions agreeing to test and apply the new framework for a more predictable and comprehensive response.

We commend the UN Secretary General's efforts to implement the "New Way of Working" with a coordinated long-term approach across the entire UN system, as well as his call to scale up conflict prevention efforts. Considering the nature of today's displacement, more needs to be done to strengthen the link between humanitarian and development agencies and ensure self-reliance and resilience.

Slovenia has been contributing regularly to the UNHCR's efforts and has increased its contribution almost threefold in the last two years. We will shortly provide an additional contribution to the UNHCR for its work with Myanmar/Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

In line with our announcement at the Brussels Syria conference on 5th April 2017, we will continue to provide funding to UNHCR for Syria in 2018 and 2019.

Slovenia also supports several projects focused on economic and social empowerment of refugee women, particularly in Jordan, Lebanon and Uganda.

We take part in the EU response addressing refugee-migrant crises. In this context Slovenia is participating with success in the EU relocation scheme and has so far relocated 40 % of the assigned quota.

Following the World humanitarian summit and considering the New York declaration for refugees and migrants, Slovenia has applied a "new way of working" in the area of humanitarian assistance. I am happy to report on the recent adoption - just last week - of a new Resolution on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance by the Slovenian National Assembly. It is the basis of our new strategic framework for addressing crises in a more effective and coherent way. The resolution underlines linkages between humanitarian and development work, including through support to reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, resilience building, disaster risk reduction and crisis prevention.

Madam Chairperson,

We are doing our best to provide adequate support to asylum seekers in Slovenia. We provide accommodation for refugees and applicants for international protection, paying special attention to vulnerable groups. In this regard a pilot project is in place whereby unaccompanied minors are provided with full-day professional care. Particular emphasis is placed on enhancing their competence to take responsibility for their lives and to integrate them into Slovenian society.

In response to large flows of migrants and asylum seekers, a Government Office for Support and Integration of Migrants has been established. The Office is responsible for coordinated and comprehensive treatment of various categories of foreigners, which allows for targeted and more efficient action in this area.

Finally, Madam Chairperson,

We would like to express our appreciation for the UNHCR Strategic Directions for the period 2017-2021. We would also like to commend the work of humanitarian staff on the ground performed in complex and insecure settings. Recognizing their noble duties, Slovenian Interior Ministry decided earlier this year to award decorations (silver badge) of the Police to the UNHCR's Regional Representation for Central Europe in Budapest.

To conclude, let me reaffirm our strong commitment to the shared responsibility and global solidarity in view of large movements of migrants and refugees, as well as our continuing engagement in the process of consultations on the two global compacts.

Thank you.