

**UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 73RD SESSION**  
**10-14 OCTOBER 2022**  
**NATIONAL STATEMENT**  
**Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Darius Staniulis**

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. High Commissioner,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Member States. Let me begin by congratulating the High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi with his re-election to this honourable and responsible position.

Lithuania wishes all of success personally to the Commissioner and to the entire UNHCR. Thank you for involvement and contribution, for action and dedication.

Excellences,

Today's world has changed. Unfortunately, not always for the better.

More and more challenges are testing the mankind.

Hundred of millions of refugees around the world have left their homes and are forced to seek a safe haven for themselves and their children in other countries. In the countries, free from war, conflict and persecution.

Lithuania commends the efforts of all host countries and societies that provide hospitality and generosity.

Russia's unjustified war in Ukraine has caused a humanitarian catastrophe. We see war crimes and human pain not seen since the Second World War.

Thousands of dead, millions forced to leave their homes.

This is a painful result of Russian imperial ambitions to rebuild what has collapsed 30 years ago.

By expanding its spheres of influence, annexing territories, intimidating and threatening nations in brutal ways.

However, now it is more difficult to hide crimes, to convince people by propaganda, to influence them using disinformation or to justify actions with ill-interpretation of international law.

Pseudo-referendums, to be mentioned as one of the examples.

We no longer live in times, when people's destinies were destroyed with impunity through secret protocols and agreements, or mass killings in the forests.

Today's modern world sees and captures everything - bombing and shelling, ruins, dead bodies and people's sorrows.

The damage of Russian aggression has become simply irreparable.

All of us, the international community, must help the Ukrainian people to save their right to life, state independence and democratic choices.

Winter is approaching and we have to prepare for new flows of refugees from Ukraine, since Russia is actively attacking civilian infrastructure and has chosen a strategy of intimidation of civilians. Yesterday we yet again witnessed the Russian Federation's barbaric missiles attack against critical civilian energy infrastructure of Ukraine. Lithuania in the strongest possible terms condemns such attacks.

Lithuania, like other countries in the region, the European Union, and the entire democratic world has already done a lot for war refugees from Ukraine.

Our country alone already accepted over 67 thousand Ukrainians.

We sincerely thank UNHCR for its involvement and assistance to the people of Ukraine and their host countries.

All together, we must use all available means to assist.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

The second Global Refugee Forum will be held next year. This event will be not only an important milestone for assessing the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, but also for evaluating what has been done and what could have been done better. We invite UNHCR to work with all partners to continue to make full use of its mandate in developing relevant aid programs and realigning relevant priorities.

Lithuania also reconfirms its determination to contribute to the global effort.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

We must fully ensure respect towards the international order and the principles and values on which the United Nations Organization system was created. In the present circumstances, this can only be done by reassessing Russia's responsibility and its role in this and other humanitarian forums.

With this appeal, I once again call to continue our joint efforts to help Ukraine and its people.

I thank you.