



Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations at Geneva

Statement by Czechia at the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Seventy-fourth session, 9 – 13 October 2022

Delivered by Václav Bálek, Permanent Representative

Madam Chair, Mister High Commissioner, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Czechia aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Allow me to start with dreadful developments of recent days in the Middle East. We strongly condemn the massive rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel and the unprecedented infiltration of terrorist groups that attacked civilians in the southern regions of Israel. We express our solidarity with all the families of the victims.

Coming to Europe, Madam Chair, and the Russian war. Since its beginning, we have provided humanitarian and stabilization aid worth 60 million euro. Through UNHCR, we promptly helped in Moldova and Ukraine by 1 million euro each.

Per capita, my country has received more Ukrainian refugees than anyone else. Mostly women and children. Thanks to cooperation at all levels of public administration and the unprecedented wave of solidarity coming from civil society, we have succeeded in providing help to Ukrainian refugees effectively and quickly.

We have been assisting Ukraine since 2014 with special focus on education, including scholarships, health, and public sector. Lately, we have been concentrating mainly on housing, medical equipment and energy. We stand ready to extend our assistance to other areas, such as cybersecurity and resilience building.

Allow me to thank you, Mister High Commissioner, and to your teams on site for all your tireless efforts and support.

Madam Chair, we remain aware of even greater refugee crises around the globe. We did not forget. And since the Ukraine-related funds are additional resources, we can continue to help also in other parts of the world.

Over the last decade, our long-lasting assistance to refugees in cooperation with UNHCR exceeded 20 million euro, among others allocated to Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Serbia, or Syria. Furthermore, we have been able to contribute to your efforts through the UN Volunteers Programme.

Currently, half a million euro is on the way to help refugees in Armenia, where the humanitarian situation became more than worrisome.

You can continue to rely on our support. Thank you.