



Statement by  
**the Republic of Slovenia**  
at the  
**75th Session of the Executive Committee**

Geneva, 14-18 October 2024

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Mr/Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to you, Madam Chairperson, and to the two Vice-Chairs for successfully guiding this session. Slovenia fully aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to offer a few additional remarks in a national capacity.

I would also like to thank High Commissioner Grandi for his insightful statement. In response to the unprecedented global scale of displacement, the UNHCR continues to provide critical, lifesaving assistance to millions of refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless individuals. Slovenia deeply appreciates the dedication and tireless efforts of the UNHCR staff, some of whom have made the ultimate sacrifice while delivering aid to those in dire humanitarian need. Our condolences go out to their families, friends, and the entire UNHCR community.

Regrettably, we live in disturbing times, when humanitarian personnel are increasingly exposed to harm, military attacks and collateral damage calculations. It is troubling that the UN Security Council, of which Slovenia is a current elected-member, had to remind States in Resolution 2730 of their obligation under international law to respect and protect humanitarian personnel.

The Middle East and North Africa region continues to face several humanitarian and displacement crises, driven by both natural disasters and ongoing conflicts. The unfolding war in Gaza, which has caused immense human suffering, has serious regional repercussions, including the spread of conflict to Lebanon. Refugees are now seeking to return to the country they were once forced to flee due to security concerns! In response to this devastating manmade disaster, Slovenia is providing financial and

political support while advocating for a political solution, full adherence to international law, and a sustainable ceasefire. We commend the entire UN system for its efforts to deliver lifesaving assistance, and we are deeply concerned by the groundless mounting public attacks on the credibility of the UN.

Over the past eighteen months we have witnessed war and natural hazards transforming Sudanese lives. As the conflict persists, healthcare facilities face destruction and many die of starvation, we continue calling for immediate silencing of guns. Unhindered and sustained humanitarian access is a priority. Slovenia continues to provide humanitarian assistance to cover immediate needs and we use our voice whenever we can in order to reiterate that our efforts will be futile, if we do not reach an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Mr/Madam Chairperson,

Slovenia actively participated in the Second Global Refugee Forum, where we presented several pledges, many of which have been implemented or even completed since last December. Slovenia financially supported the preparatory process of the GRF and contributed funds to mine action in Ukraine, helping to create conditions conducive to voluntary returns. As a proud sports nation, Slovenia also promotes the integration of refugees through sports. Just last week, a refugee team from Slovenia participated for the first time in a UNHCR-UEFA tournament in Nyon. Recognizing the importance of high-quality, disaggregated data, Slovenia has initiated a dialogue with EGRISS. I am also pleased to announce today that Slovenia is just steps away from acceding to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and we warmly welcome ambitious yet achievable visions in the Global Alliance to End Statelessness.

In conclusion, Slovenia remains committed to staying actively engaged and not standing idly by, whether at home, in our region, or globally. We are hopeful that the positive spirit of last year's Global Refugee Forum will have a ripple effect across all displacement crises. We hold the UNHCR in the highest regard and fully support its efforts to operate sustainably, while also prioritizing diversity, equality, and inclusion.