



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-fifth session, 14 – 18 October 2024**

**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.

We share High Commissioner's concerns about the unprecedented scale of displacement, resulting from the increasing number of humanitarian emergencies. Your estimate of almost 140 million forcibly displaced and stateless persons in 2025 is alarming. We are equally worried about the complexity of displacement, consisting of refugees and migrants moving side by side.

Our response to this phenomenon must be holistic and comprehensive, focusing on those in need of international protection. We appreciate UNHCR's commitment to apply a whole-of-route approach and its work on the new, innovative and humane approaches to asylum, such as regional processing. We welcome UNHCR's readiness to work in close partnership with both states and other organizations, namely with IOM.

For more than two years, the unprovoked and unjustified Russian aggression has been going on in Ukraine. My country has provided refuge to more than 600 thousand Ukrainians, mostly women and children. Thanks to the cooperation at all

levels and the unprecedented wave of solidarity coming from civil society, we have succeeded in providing help to Ukrainian refugees effectively and quickly. We have opened up our education and health systems, as well as the labour market, so that most of the refugees are now well integrated in the Czech society. Their hope is, nevertheless, to be able to return home once the situation allows.

Despite the unsettling situation in Ukraine, we remain aware of other refugee crises around the globe. And we continue helping, in line with our European and global commitments.

Over the last decade, our long-lasting cooperation with UNHCR amounted to roughly 25 million euro, allocated in Africa, Middle-East or Asia.

This year, we have supported UNHCR operations in Afghanistan, Mauritania and Rwanda in the total amount of 3 million euro. Further funding was approved just last week to Lebanese and Syrian refugees, in reaction to the UN Flash Appeal.

We are mindful that despite efforts of many donors, UNHCR continues to face a critical funding gap. In this sense, we welcome your efforts on prioritization, sustainable programming, humanitarian-development-peace nexus, increased collaboration with local partners and effective coordination across the UN system.

To conclude, allow me to thank you, Mister High Commissioner, and your teams in the field for all your tireless work and efforts, often in challenging and even life-threatening conditions. We highly commend your action and you can rely on our continuous support.

Thank you.