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**General debate**

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

Mister Chairperson,

Let me begin by thanking the High Commissioner for his concise opening remarks as well as his committed and extensive work of the past year. We would also like to commend the work of the UNHCR staff often performed in the complex and insecure working environment. Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to use this opportunity to briefly highlight some of the current global challenges and present national endeavours.

For another consecutive year unprecedented refugee crisis continues worldwide, presenting humanitarian, political and development challenge of our time. This is a constant reminder that more needs to be done to manage and prevent crises worldwide and uphold commitment towards the culture of prevention.

As the global humanitarian community is facing shirking protection space and widening gaps in humanitarian financing, countries hosting large numbers of refugees continue struggling to provide refugee protection.

In this challenging landscape more than ever a call for global solidarity and the spirit of multilateralism to find common solutions to forced displacement are needed.

As the importance of multilateralism today is being challenged we need to reaffirm that global issues (and refugees are a global concern) can only successfully be resolved through multilateral cooperation. If we retreat from multilateralism we could face further fragmentation thus leading to a greater deterioration of a common good.

In this regard, the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), which is a product of a multilateral effort, by the UN General Assembly later this year, will represent a shift towards a new global way of working on refugee protection and solutions.

It was a big challenge to create a document for the protection of refugees which would meet expectations of all concerned parties. In Slovenia we are happy that after a comprehensive and detailed process, the GCR reached a consensus. This was not an easy task. We must take into account that very sensitive issues concerning asylum and international protection were discussed.

The document demonstrates a strong political commitment. Its implementation, follow-up and proper monitoring will be extremely important in order to make a tangible difference for the lives of refugees.

Mister Chairperson,

Slovenia is a small donor, but we strive to do our share to elevate the suffering and help people in humanitarian situations. As a signatory of the Grand bargain we strongly support the complementarity between peace, humanitarian aid and development cooperation.

To this end, we deliver what we promise, make our promises in advance and try to retain the scope of our contributions at least at a set level. We have been a regular supporter to the UNHCR's efforts for a number of years and, in line with our deep appreciation of your work, Slovenia will remain a regular contributor to UNHCR.

This year our support to UNHCR was dedicated to internally displaced people and refugees from Syria. We will shortly provide an additional contribution to the UNHCR for its work with the refugees on a Western Balkans route. In line with our announcement at the Brussels Syria conference on 5th April 2017, we will continue to provide funding to UNHCR for Syria also in 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 253 people originating from Eritrea, Syria, Yemen and Iraq. From Turkey we resettled 21 people originating from Syria. The next group of 20 people is expected this autumn.

Slovenia, who currently holds the Presidency of the Human Rights Council, will continue to support our common efforts to promote and protect human rights as an important part in addressing refugee flows.

Finally, Mister Chairperson,

To conclude, let me reaffirm our strong commitment to the shared responsibility and global solidarity with refugees and affected host countries as well as our engagement in the implementation of the GCR.

Slovenia will continue to support UNHCR's activities and wish you successful preparation for the new role's and engagement with partners in the application of the GCR.

Thank you.