

**UNHCR – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**67th Session (3 - 7 October 2016)**  
**CZ Statement in General Debate (Item 3)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement.

I would like to start by thanking the High Commissioner for his relentless efforts in fulfilling his mandate. We commend him and his Office for continued engagement in favour of the most vulnerable and protection-needed people as well as for all the support to host countries and governments around the world.

Two weeks ago two important meetings took place in New York - UN General Assembly Summit Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and Leaders' Summit on the Global Refugee Crisis hosted by President Barack Obama. My country is proud to have been an active participant in both of them.

Given the unprecedented scale of forced displacement around the world, we see New York summits as landmark events, bringing issues of refugees and migrants to the highest levels of global political attention – and showing pathways to sustainable global solutions of the crises we face; perhaps most importantly in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

There are no doubts that UNHCR has a crucial role in the overall implementation of this Framework: A challenging assignment, not least because it requires adequate resources and strong management. In this regard we welcome High Commissioner's announcement made in the opening statement regarding the review of planning and resource allocation processes.

Although funding has increased, and the amended UNHCR budget of 2016 has reached another record level, the needs have grown even faster and made the already significant gap further widen. Therefore we should continue to reflect collectively on how to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the planned operations.

Mr. Chairman,

the Czech Republic is taking the commitments from New York summits – along with the Grand Bargain and other pledges based on the Agenda for Humanity and the World Humanitarian Summit – very seriously. While building on previous activities, we responded with new pledges and engagements. We have been playing and will play an active role in improving the self-reliance and resilience of IDPs, refugees and their host communities, in particular in relation to Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, as well as for Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. Similar initiatives are aiming at Western Balkan countries, Georgia or Ukraine.

As for the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, the Czech Republic has an active and much appreciated cooperation with the UNHCR. Since 2015 we have supported the electrification and winterization of large refugee camps in Zaatari in Jordan and in Ashti and Kawergosk in Iraq with a contribution of 3 500 000 USD. Together with UNHCR we have set up the programme “New Elites for Syria” which offers Czech university education to Syrian refugees from Jordan and complements our efforts on providing access to education to children in refugee camps in Jordan, in local communities in Lebanon and in war-torn regions of Syria. In addition we cooperate with UNHCR on the humanitarian admissions and resettlement programmes.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, allow me to express hope that the international community, in cooperation with UNHCR and other relevant global actors, will be able to successfully implement our global commitments, and thus reverse the current negative trends like growing numbers of forced and protracted displacements. The Czech Republic is ready to contribute to these efforts both through its continued humanitarian and development assistance, and through its support to political and security related global and regional stabilization initiatives, which represent a key for a successful development of the affected countries. Thank you.