



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the Plenary Session
Global Refugee Forum 2023

Geneva, 14 December 2023

Mr Chairperson,

Right now, more people are being forced to flee than ever before. From Ukraine, Armenia, South Sudan to unspeakable horrors in Gaza, the global instability, caused by the use of force is on the rise. Climate change is a significant security threat and is making people on the move in East Africa.

By affirmation of the Global Compact on Refugees in 2018, we recognized that a sustainable solution to refugee situation cannot be achieved without international cooperation and more predictable and equitable responsibility sharing.

So five years on, how do we feel? Moderately satisfied, I would say.

On the negative note, the global challenges are mounting and our latest figures of 114 million refugees and displaced globally speak for itself.

On the positive note, since the affirmation of the Compact we follow the growing involvement of major global development actors and the private sector.

Today, at the second Global Refugee Forum we will determine our action and send a strong signal to all of refugees around the globe to let them know they have our support and understanding. Slovenia allocated 20.000 euros to support the work of UNHCR in delivering the 2023 Global Forum.

Contributing to ending Statelessness worldwide, I am announcing Slovenia's accession to the 1961 Convention.

Refugees are the biggest recipients of Slovenian humanitarian assistance. In 2023, we have substantially increased humanitarian contributions to international organisations helping refugees with donations so far amounting to 2,3 million euros. (*ICRC, UNRWA, UNHCR, WFP*).

Slovenia commits to allocate more than 2,3 million euros for humanitarian demining in Ukraine to provide secure access to housing and arable land. In this vein, we will continue to implement projects in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon via ITF Enhancing Human Security.

Resettlement is one important and visible way to share responsibility. Slovenia commits to resettle 50 Syrian and Afghan refugees from Türkiye.

Slovenia being a sport nation will continue to build close partnerships of displaced people and local communities by investing in sports as part of durable and resilient solutions.

Before concluding, let me emphasize that refugees are changemakers. We need to hear their voice and learn from their experience. Their statistical inclusion in national data systems is key. Slovenia commits to mainstream the importance of gender-sensitive data collection working closely with EGRISS, which is in line with the recently adopted first national integration strategy.

Finally, let me stress that more efforts are needed on the side of prevention and in addressing root causes of forced displacement. This is why Slovenia will continue its water agenda, since it is at the centre of the climate crisis and needs to be factored into development aid.

Thank you.