



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
G E N E V A**

**Statement by  
Mr. Gordan Markotić, *charge d'affairs* at the Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Croatia to the UN in Geneva,  
at the Global Refugee Forum,  
United Nations, Geneva, 12 to 14 December 2023**

Co-hosts, co-conveners,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to **express my gratitude to the co-hosts and co-conveners** for organizing this Global Refugee Forum at its second edition.

We have gathered at the Global Refugee Forum **to demonstrate our will and** our common efforts to help resettled people in need around the world and to enable them to exercise their human rights.

Croatia is strongly committed to **active role** in implementing actions envisaged in the **Global Compact for Refugees**.

My country's modern history and overall commitments have shown that **we never hesitate** from offering protection and help to those in need.

Croatia built our **legislation and practice with the highest humanitarian standards** since 1990s - a time when my country, faced with the war of aggression, provided safe haven for more than 1 million refugees and internally displaced persons, including hundreds of thousands of refugees from neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ladies and gentlemen,

**Based on the idea of universal protection of all refugees, it is essential to act together, through inclusive partnerships.**

That approach was embedded in pledges by Croatia at the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019.

As a part of a comprehensive approach, Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in partnership with UNICEF implemented the **project for Syrian refugee children in Jordan.**

The aim of the project was **to improve learning conditions in refugee camps in Jordan (Azraq and Za'atari)** by constructing five playgrounds equipped with access for children with physical disabilities. Herein, Croatia provided 200.000 Euros.

In addition, we have implemented another project that includes financial allocation of 200.000 EUR, in cooperation with the

**UN Women.** It **targeted** 110 women, Syrian refugees, as well as vulnerable groups of Lebanese nationals. It **provided** high quality and market-based ICT skills training, and **supported** student access to temporary or full-time employment at the local market. The project objective was to ensure **economic empowerment** of women by encouraging the change in perception of the role of women in the society.

Moreover, Croatia has implemented the program for resettlement of applicants for international protection, and **fulfilled its commitment** to resettle 250 Syrian refugees from Turkey.

**We have been also providing help for the innocent victims of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.** So far, 24,000 of forcibly displaced Ukrainian citizens have found safe heaven in Croatia where they were provided with accommodation. Many of them found their jobs, while their children have been enrolled in Croatian educational institutions, proving a successful overall integration . My Government will continue to deliver adequate assistance to Ukrainians resettled in Croatia through further investments in their housing, employment, education, health care and all other aspect of their new lives in Croatia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our efforts for assisting those in needs continue.

**For this edition of the Forum,** Croatia would like to present new pledges:

**-the first one on allocation of financial aid for the civilian population of Gaza** in the amount of 1,250,000.00 Euros through activities of a different international bodies and UN agencies,

**- the second one includes humanitarian aid to the civilian population of Armenia**, through financial contribution of 250,000 Euros given through the ICRC.

Let me also point out that in October this year, Croatia expressed its support **to the regional pledge presented at the OCSE Conference** on Access to Civil Documentation and Prevention of Statelessness in South – East Europe in Skopje, North Macedonia and expressing its support to the #IBelong Campaign, targeted towards resolving cases of the statelessness in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, let me reiterate Croatia's **firm commitment** to provide help to refugees. In that vein I would also like to emphasize the importance of **addressing root causes that led towards people's forced displacement and creating conditions in countries of origin for voluntary return of refugees in safety and dignity.**

Thank you