



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

**76 UNHCR ExCoM**

**Agenda item - General Debate**

**Statement of the Republic of Croatia delivered by Andrea Javor**

**Charge d'Affaires a.i., Deputy Permanent Representative**

Mr Chairman,

***Croatia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of  
likeminded European states***

It is an honour and a privilege to address today's gathering as we recognize and account for the tireless humanitarian work of the UNHCR amidst numerous crises unfolding all around the globe and never higher number of displaced persons.

For more than seven decades, the UNHCR has stood as a beacon of hope for millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflicts, persecution, violence or natural disasters. The Agency's commitment to dignity, protection and preservation of human rights has saved countless lives and has reminded the world of the power of compassion in the face of adversity. Thus, it has never been more paramount for the UNHCR to preserve its courageous and noble endeavour than now.

On behalf of the Republic of Croatia, I wish to extend the heartfelt and deepest gratitude to the High Commissioner for all that he has done in his role at the helm of the UNHCR over many years, the staff and the countless volunteers of the Agency who have dedicated themselves to this sublime cause. Their work transcends nationality, culture and creed. It embodies the very principles upon which the United Nations was founded.

As a Member State of the EU - the biggest global humanitarian donor - Croatia stands firmly with people in need worldwide, supporting the humanitarian principles which have been in great jeopardy, especially lately. We are deeply

concerned about the grave humanitarian situation in numerous crisis settings, from the Middle East, Ukraine to Sudan, Sahel, Myanmar, Afghanistan, DRC ...

In the face of rising geo-political antagonisms, Croatia calls for respect of the IHL and reminds that all parties are obliged to fully comply with the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. All civilians and civilian infrastructure must be protected, with special emphasis on persons in vulnerable situations, such as women, children, youth and persons with disabilities. At the same time it is paramount to ensure unhindered and free provision of humanitarian assistance to all in need as well as the safe environment for humanitarian workers.

Moreover, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the humanitarians who tragically lost their lives or suffered injuries and hardship in their line of duty. Their work was a labour of love and solidarity, and they will always be remembered with the greatest affection and respect.

In this regard, we are especially mindful of the extraordinary courage demonstrated by the entire UNHCR staff working in some of the most dangerous and challenging environments on earth. UNHCR's presence brings immediate relief, but also the long-term hope of rebuilding lives, restoring communities, and securing future for generations to come.

Today, as we reflect on the UNHCR's achievements, we must also reaffirm our collective responsibility. Governments, civil society and the international community at large must continue to support the mandate of the UNHCR — not only through words of appreciation, but through concrete actions, contributions, and policies that protect refugees and displaced persons.

Croatia fully supports the Humanitarian Reset and its goal of building a more inclusive, efficient and resilient humanitarian ecosystem.

We are investing significant resources to ensure predictable and flexible funding in order to contribute substantially to the global humanitarian efforts, especially in the context of unprecedented humanitarian funding gap.

In 2025, we contributed 2 million euros to the UNHCR to support the Ukrainian Government's priorities for early recovery and resilience-building in the energy sector.

In total, we have provided 77 million euros in emergency, humanitarian and development assistance to Ukraine since the beginning of the full - scale Russian aggression.

Humanitarian assistance also includes financial support for more than 31.000 Ukrainian refugees, who have access to a wide range of social services in Croatia.

This ranks Croatia sixth in the world in terms of humanitarian aid to Ukraine as a share of GDP (0.155%).

While Ukraine remains a central focus of international attention, Croatia has not overlooked other pressing humanitarian crises.

In 2025, we continued our multi-year commitment to supporting Syrian refugees through targeted initiatives in Jordan—such as the renovation of inclusive playgrounds within refugee camps—and in Lebanon (specialized program that provides education and services for Syrian children with disabilities). In 2025 we also contributed financially to the humanitarian operations in Syria proper as well.

Croatia has provided 3,75 million euros in humanitarian assistance to civilian population in Gaza and we consistently call for respect for international humanitarian law, protection of civilians as well as humanitarian personnel, and full humanitarian access.

All these efforts reflect Croatia's dedication to humanitarian principles and solidarity with displaced populations worldwide.

Mr Chairman,

The work of the UNHCR, and of all of us global donors, is not just about providing shelter or safety. It is about restoring humanity. It is about giving children the chance to grow up, to learn and prosper, families the chance to heal and societies the chance to rebuild. Let me once again congratulate the UNHCR on its outstanding humanitarian efforts and assure you of Croatia's steadfast support as you continue your mission.

Thank you.