

**SEVENTY-SIXTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

6-10 OCTOBER 2025

Agenda item 3-General Debate

Statement by GREECE

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

High Commissioner, Distinguished Delegates,

Greece aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of likeminded European States.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the High Commissioner and the UNHCR as a whole for their steadfast leadership through unprecedented financial pressure and operational strain.

In a world marked by conflict and eroding trust in institutions, the multilateral system developed over the past 80 years is being directly challenged as never before. Greece, together with its EU partners, is determined to do its utmost to defend and reinforce the multilateral system. In this context, the UN80 reform process is of crucial importance, in order to ensure a more resilient and efficient UN system that will be fit for purpose. Greece welcomes the UNHCR's contribution to the UN80 Initiative and the Humanitarian Reset and supports alignment with system-wide financial and other reforms leading to cost-savings, improved efficiency and impact.

We remain deeply concerned by displacement driven by multiple crises, including Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, the conflict and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and deteriorating conditions in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, and elsewhere. Compliance with international humanitarian law, protection of civilians, accountability, and unhindered humanitarian access must remain non-negotiable.

The unprecedented level of conflict, instability and economic uncertainty has vastly increased migrant and refugee flows, which have reached unprecedented levels and complexity, testing the limits of our multilateral institutions and national systems alike.

In this regard, our shared priority is to reinforce existing asylum systems so they remain accessible to those in need while addressing mounting pressures—especially in mixed movements where refugees and migrants travel together, placing extraordinary demands on host communities and frontline institutions.

Echoing the High Commissioner, Greece underscores the imperative to tackle root causes through peacemaking, principled humanitarian diplomacy, inclusive development and partnerships. UNHCR's operational role in facilitating voluntary

returns where conditions allow, and its ability to mobilize partners and resources, remain vital and merit sustained political and financial support. The forthcoming Global Refugee Forum Progress Review is a key opportunity to reaffirm and scale up collective commitments that advance protection, inclusion, and solutions.

Nationally, Greece has strengthened asylum and reception, enhanced protection for unaccompanied children, and invested in effective procedures, while safeguarding the EU's external borders and combating trafficking and smuggling—paired with support for safe and legal pathways. Since the outset of Russia's invasion, our country has provided temporary protection and access to services to tens of thousands Ukrainian refugees.

Greece firmly condemns the instrumentalization of refugees and migrants for political ends. Human beings and human suffering should never be exploited as tools to achieve political ends and the international community should react firmly to such practices.

Expanding safe and legal pathways is an effective way to share responsibility and reduce exploitation and instrumentalization of migrants and refugees.

We welcome UNHCR–IOM cooperation, notably route-based approaches in mixed movements, to uphold rights, improve protection screening, and accelerate solutions, including voluntary return. At the same time, we consider that IOM and UNHCR have discreet mandates and missions which should not be confused.

On UNHCR's finances and reform, we express our full support during this critical phase of restructuring, recognizing the gravity of the funding crisis. We appreciate efforts to reshape the organization and the prioritization of life-saving protection and assistance. At the same time, we share concerns about potential impacts on the Organization's ability to sustain critical protection and advance long-term solutions for refugees.

In conclusion, Greece reiterates full support to UNHCR's mandate and to the High Commissioner's leadership over a demanding decade, and gratitude to UNHCR personnel worldwide.

Thank you.