



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Dušan Matulay, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of SLOVAKIA in the general debate of the 76th plenary session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (6-10 October 2025)**

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*Check against delivery*

Mr. Chairperson,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement of European Member States delivered by Denmark.

We are taking the floor to make some remarks that are of particular importance to our national delegation.

To set out, we thank High Commissioner Filippo Grandi for his opening statement. We appreciate his updates on important refugee matters and refugee situations in the field to which UNHCR has been responding. We have also taken note of the new situation the UN refugee agency is forced to cope with. We understand that this can result in a UNHCR doing less with less. Still, we have our full confidence in you that you will be able to safeguard the implementation of your core mandate.

In this context, we welcome the ExCom statement in support of UNHCR. We think it to be an appropriate response in this challenging period. We also recognize UNHCR's engagement in the collective endeavour under the UN80 and Humanitarian Reset broader initiatives.

Chair,

We have always subscribed to High Commissioner's calls for increased international solidarity with refugees and host communities. The number of pledges recorded at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Refugee Forum in 2023 and their implementation testify to the world community's commitment in this regard. We are looking forward to the mid-term meeting scheduled to take place in Geneva this December in order to review progress.

We have always emphasized the need for approaches that would address refugee situations in a comprehensive manner. All in all, this means putting the same emphasis on various

aspects covered by the key objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees – from refugee protection and inclusion during their time in need to their safe and dignified return after the conflict or crisis situation has settled.

A number of Slovakia's pledges presented at the GRF 2023 have been aimed at this objective as we have the responsibility of hosting a substantial number of persons forced to flee Russia's war on Ukraine. Our commitment in this regard will not weaken - nor will our humanitarian and economic assistance to our hard-tested neighbour, together with whom we are envisaging holding a third round of our two governments joint consultations.

In this connection, we would like to thank UNHCR once again for its continued support aimed at complementing efforts led by our government, in particular by addressing gaps in the provision of assistance and services to people seeking refuge on our territory.

In 2024, we marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNHCR's presence in Slovakia. Our intensive cooperation has been documented, for example, by the signing last year between the Slovak Olympic Committee and UNHCR of a memorandum in support of Ukrainian refugees through sport, or the delivery of first batches of material support by UNHCR in Slovakia in the frame of the agreement between our Ministry of Interior and UNHCR.

We thank UNHCR for the preparation of the 2025-2026 edition of its Regional Refugee Response Plan. Its launch in Slovakia took place in February 2025 on the soil of the Ministry of Interior.

Chair,

To close, let me offer our repeated thanks to UNHCR and its work throughout the ongoing year. The recent period has continuously been marked by unprecedented number of people forced to set out on a journey as refugee. All this combined with a difficult situation in the Agency's financial envelope.

High Commissioner's dedicated effort to ease the plight of refugee should also this year deserve our collective recognition and support through adoption of the UNGA omnibus resolution.

Thank you.