

**Statement**

**by H.E. Mr. Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine,  
on a.i. 3 “General debate” of the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the UNHCR Executive Committee  
(7 October 2025, Geneva)**

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Ukraine aligns itself with the statement of likeminded European states delivered by the delegation of Denmark.

On this 75th anniversary of the UNHCR, we acknowledge its fundamental role in providing protection and assistance to forcibly displaced persons.

With global forced displacement and humanitarian needs at record levels, its mandate has never been more important. In this regard, we stress the need for global solidarity and partnership to ensure that it can continue to live up to its responsibilities.

We are worried about detrimental funding cuts and dramatic reductions in workforce, operational footprint and field programmes that limit UNHCR’s capacity to deliver.

While recognizing that hard times demand hard choices, we emphasize the importance of maintaining UNHCR operations in regions with the greatest needs and focusing on the most vulnerable.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine continues to be one of the main drivers of forced displacement globally. With the war in its fourth year, some 10 million Ukrainians remain displaced, including 5.7 million who have been seeking safety abroad. About 12.7 million Ukrainians are in need of humanitarian assistance.

A surge in Russia’s large-scale aerial attacks on peaceful Ukrainian cities and continued military escalation have worsened humanitarian and displacement crises, uprooting hundreds of thousands of people. The first half of 2025 saw an alarming 54 per cent increase in civilian casualties from the Russian indiscriminate and deliberate strikes.

With the cold season setting, of major concern is Russia’s massive and systematic attacks against Ukrainian energy infrastructure, which aim at hampering access to essential services, making daily life unbearable, thus forcing more civilians to leave.

Ukraine condemns in the strongest terms these serious IHL violations and war crimes. Perpetrators must be held accountable. The suffering of the Ukrainian people must stop.

Regrettably, funding cuts have led to the reduction of UNHCR's activities in Ukraine in 2025. Even in this highly constrained environment, UNHCR has been able to reach hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians with life-saving assistance and protection services, for which we are grateful.

We call upon UNHCR to maintain its programmes in Ukraine, wherever possible, focusing on the most vulnerable groups of IDPs and returnees. We also urge donor community to provide funding to ensure the implementation of UNHCR response plans for Ukraine amid soaring humanitarian needs.

We welcome the decision of the European Union to extend temporary protection for over 4 million displaced Ukrainians until March 2027. Continued hospitality and solidarity of the EU Member States and other hosting countries towards displaced Ukrainians is very much appreciated.

We emphasize that most Ukrainians who moved abroad want to return to their homes once the root cause of displacement is addressed, which is the Russia's war of aggression. That said, we call upon all peace-loving nations to support diplomatic efforts towards achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine.

The dire humanitarian situation and protection crisis in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine remain a source of serious concern. Ukrainians, who refused to obtain Russian citizenship under pressure, have been declared "foreigners" and "stateless persons", deprived of social payments and guarantees and put at risk of deportation.

We resolutely condemn forced imposition of Russian citizenship in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine in violation of international law. Unlawful decisions and actions of the Russian Federation will have no legal consequences for the citizens of Ukraine living under occupation.

We urge the Russian Federation to comply with its obligations as the occupying Power and grant unimpeded and sustained access to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine for UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations to enable the effective implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and impartial humanitarian relief.

Finally, the delegation of Ukraine would like to pay tribute to Mr. Filippo Grandi as he is about to complete his term as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees after 10 years of faithful service to humanity.

High Commissioner, you have been a strong defender of displaced persons, tirelessly advocating for the rights and human dignity everywhere, for everyone, including millions of affected Ukrainians. We have fond memories of your visits to Ukraine, which allowed to shape timely, efficient and at scale response to the human tragedy of immense proportions. We are sincerely grateful for that and wish you the very best for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Charman.