



Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations Office and other International
Organizations at Geneva

**Statement by Czechia at the Executive Committee of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees**

Seventy-sixth session, 6 – 10 October 2025

Delivered by Václav Bálek, Permanent Representative

Agenda item 3: General Debate

Dear Chair, High Commissioner, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Czechia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark, on behalf of likeminded European States.

Dear High Commissioner,

Let me begin by expressing our sincere appreciation for your sobering yet forward-looking address. The unprecedented scale of displacement caused by a growing number of humanitarian emergencies is deeply concerning. Czechia echoes the concern raised regarding the estimated 136 million forcibly displaced and stateless persons by 2026 - an alarming figure that highlights the urgency of collective action.

We are equally concerned about the increasing complexity of displacement, where refugees and migrants often move side by side. In this context, we commend UNHCR's efforts to promote a whole-of-route approach - combining protection with responsibility-sharing throughout the asylum process. We also appreciate willingness of UNHCR to collaborate with the EU and its member states on innovative solutions, such as regional processing mechanisms and return hubs. Enhanced cooperation with both States and organizations like the IOM are essential to managing displacement in a humane, coordinated, and efficient manner.

High Commissioner,

We acknowledge the serious funding constraints you have outlined. At a time when the entire humanitarian system is facing significant financial pressure, the international community must act decisively. We therefore welcome your emphasis on prioritization and sustainable programming.



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Czechia places particular emphasis on strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and on deeper and systematic engagement with local actors, including their meaningful participation in decision-making processes. Furthermore, we believe that addressing structural fragility should be a central pillar of humanitarian policy - not only as a basis for prevention, but as a guiding principle for long-term, sustainable response.

For more than three and a half years, Ukraine is bearing the devastating consequences of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression. Czechia has offered refuge to almost 1 million displaced Ukrainians, currently hosting around 400,000 under temporary protection. In close partnership with civil society and local authorities, we have integrated them into our healthcare, education, and labour systems. Today, they are contributing meaningfully to our economy and society - a temporary asset to our country. Their resilience continues to inspire us. And while many have found safety in Czechia, we recognize that their hope is to return home as soon as conditions permit. We remain committed to supporting their dignity and long-term aspirations.

At the same time, Czechia remains acutely aware of other refugee crises around the world. In line with our European and international commitments, we continue to respond to global displacement needs. Over the past decade, we have contributed 25 million euros to UNHCR operations in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. We also deeply value the solidarity shown by low- and middle-income host countries, whose generosity must not be overlooked. They deserve our continued recognition and support. This year, Czechia has contributed 2 million euros to UNHCR operations in Mauritania and Syria, and we intend to support additional operations before the end of the year, especially the Chad operation with focus on Sudanese refugees. Importantly, our assistance not only supports refugees but also places strong emphasis on strengthening host communities.

Dear High Commissioner,

As you conclude the tenure, we express our deepest gratitude for ten years of principled leadership. We also commend the dedication of UNHCR teams in the field, often working under difficult and dangerous conditions. Your work is indispensable to the lives of millions around the world.



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Thank you.