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77th session of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR

(item3) General debate

Statement by the Republic of Poland

Honourable High Commissioner, Mr Chair,

Poland aligns with the statement delivered by the EU and wishes to offer additional remarks in its national capacity.

We thank the High Commissioner for his comprehensive introduction, and for his leadership in steering UNHCR through a new chapter. In this difficult period, marked by increasing gap between identified needs and accessible funds, Poland affirms its support for UNHCR's core protection mandate. We acknowledge the efforts of the organisations' leadership, HQ and field staff in addressing this situation.

We trust that the new Strategic Directions, High Commissioner 50to35 vision, as well as the prospect new budget model, will enable UNHCR to adapt more effectively to current challenges. Equally strongly we appreciate and encourage further transparency and updates on how these initiatives, coupled with the ongoing Humanitarian Reset and the completed Independent Management Review, will translate into staffing, budgeting and UNHCR's field presence around the world.

In this context, one should especially acknowledge work of UNHCR staff and its implementing partner organisations on the ground, who daily provide critical assistance. Without their dedication, even the most refined undertakings would simply not succeed. Therefore, Poland calls on all actors to ensure unimpeded access of humanitarian aid, personal safety of humanitarian personnel and unconditional compliance with the IHL.

Chair,

too often we are reminded that UNHCR is forced to stretch its resources due to the lack of fundamental prerequisites – political will and peace. We see this in various places: DRC, Middle East, Myanmar, Sudan. The most striking example is the case of our neighbour, Ukraine – a victim of the ongoing, illegal and unjustified war of aggression initiated by the Russian Federation.

Soon we will witness another winter season in war-stricken Ukraine, with an ever-growing number of displaced persons, increased Russian attacks against the civilian

population and critical infrastructure in Ukraine, as well as deliberate bombings of warehouses containing humanitarian aid or food.

In May those belonging to the UNHCR in Dnipro were attacked. In July, in the town of Pavlohrad, the warehouses of organisation Proliska the recipient of regional Europe Nansen Award, were targeted. We strongly condemn these ruthless and reprehensible attacks.

In this context, we wish to sincerely thank the UNHCR for developing multidimensional programmes, like Regional Refugee Response Plan or Winter Response Plan 2025/2026 and for maintaining critical physical presence in Ukraine. We encourage the UNHCR and donor community to sustain efforts in managing the international response to this conflict.

For its part, Poland will continue to display compassion and solidarity. For almost five years we have been providing one of the largest Ukrainian refugee diaspora communities worldwide with shelter from war, as well as durable solutions: access to social services, medical care, education, and professional development. This enables them to integrate into society, rebuild their lives with dignity, and return to Ukraine when conditions permit.

In addition, over the last few years, we have adopted a multi-track approach by making additional financial donations to mitigate the effects of humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Lebanon, Yemen and Armenia.

Rest assured, Mr. High Commissioner, that Polish engagement, as well as support for you and your Office, will endure in the years to come.

I thank you.