



Statement by

Slovenia

at the

**High-Level Side Event Commemorating 75 Years
of the 1951 Refugee Convention**

New York, 23 September 2026

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by expressing Slovenia's **deep appreciation to UNHCR** for its indispensable work in exceptionally challenging international circumstances.

At a time when forced displacement remains at record levels and humanitarian resources are under severe strain, the **75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention** is an important opportunity not only to commemorate its achievements, but also to **reaffirm our collective commitment to international protection**.

Slovenia strongly believes in **multilateral cooperation** in addressing displacement and migration. We highly value our longstanding and close **partnership with UNHCR**, including its expertise in strengthening reception and asylum systems and in supporting the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

We are pleased that **Slovenia has fully implemented the commitments undertaken at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum**.

This includes our resettlement commitment from Türkiye, providing protection to vulnerable Syrian and Afghan refugees and supporting their integration through access to housing, education, language learning and employment.

We have also made important progress in addressing statelessness. **Slovenia ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and, in October 2025, joined the Global Alliance to End Statelessness**. We remain committed to strengthening safeguards to prevent childhood statelessness.

Looking ahead, we will continue our close **cooperation with UNHCR on complementary education pathways**. In November 2025, two refugee students arrived in Slovenia to pursue Master's studies at the Euro-Mediterranean University in Piran. This initiative demonstrates how safe and legal pathways can provide concrete opportunities for refugees and contribute to durable solutions.

Slovenia will also continue supporting the meaningful inclusion of refugees through education, employment, integration programmes and sport.

Above all, refugees and displaced persons must be partners in shaping the policies and solutions that affect their lives. Their voices and experience matter.

As we mark 75 years of the Refugee Convention, Slovenia reaffirms its **commitment to international protection, solidarity and responsibility-sharing**. We will continue working closely with UNHCR and our international partners to ensure that the principles of the Convention remain strong and effective for the challenges ahead.

Thank you.