Statement

by

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Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Croatia
to the United Nations

at the

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Agenda item 62: Report of the UN High
Commissioner for Refugees

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Mr Chairman,

It is my great pleasure to address you today and to provide our contribution to this important debate. Allow me to express my gratitude to the distinguished High Commissioner for Refugees for his inspiring introductory remarks and for the comprehensive Report he has provided.

Croatia is fully appreciative of all the challenges that UN High Commissioner for Refugees was confronted within the last years and fully endorses UNHCR’s operational and policy choices and efforts made to identify the most effective responses to these important challenges.

Mr Chairman,

As the High Commissioner’s report is extensively analysed in the statement by the European Union, to which Croatia aligns itself, allow me to add a few comments specifically linked to the South East Europe.

UNHCRs’ involvement in the process of facilitating durable solutions in the South East Europe is well noted in the report. Their engagement in the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) is in line with our common goal to ensure that the final resolution of the refugee situation in the region is indeed durable, just and comprehensive. We believe that the effective implementation of the Regional Housing Programme represents the best guarantee for our continued efforts towards the final closure of the displacement chapter in our region and Croatia will remain committed to the Regional Housing Programme not only as a regional partner but also as an EU member.
Mr Chairman,

In the last 20 years, Croatian society has passed through profound and enduring changes. The highest standards of protecting human and minority rights have been achieved. The issue of refugee return, along with securing the comprehensive durable solutions, played an important part in this process. Corresponding to these internal changes, Croatia has fulfilled one of its main foreign policy goals and on July 1st joined the European Union.

Although it is not mentioned in the present report, we welcome that UNHCR has initiated discussion related to the invocation of cessation clause for Croatia. We fully agree that the time has come to look into the appropriate provisions of 1951 Convention and Croatia stands ready to participate in all consultations or other activities in this respect.

Furthermore, Croatia fully supports the High Commissioner’s leading role in this process and we encourage his office to present us with a clear timeline of its implementation. UNHCRs leading role is a guarantee that invocation of cessation clause will be conducted in full respect and utmost care for each individual refugee.

We are certain that timely and conclusive outcome of this process will indeed represent a conformation of one of the rare joint successful stories in our contemporary picture of increasing global displacement.

Thank you.