

Your Excellencies, Presidents of Parliaments, Parliamentarians,  
Dear colleagues,

It is a privilege for me to speak here, in Geneva, a city that has long been a symbol of peace, dialogue, and humanitarian care. Switzerland, and Geneva in particular, have played a historic and indispensable role in shaping international humanitarian law and providing a home to the International Committee of the Red Cross and numerous UN agencies working to alleviate and support human suffering.

Today, we meet at a time when the global humanitarian environment is under enormous strain. Effective implementation of humanitarian norms is crucial for preserving human life and social stability. For 80 years, the UN has been a beacon of hope, a platform for dialogue and peace wherever there are conflicts, natural disasters, or challenges posed by emerging political or economic migration flows.

I am pleased to share that in 2025, the Republic of Bulgaria celebrates 70 years of its membership in the world organization. Conflicts, natural disasters, and economic instability have left one in every 23 inhabitants of our planet dependent on aid for survival. The financial cost of these crises has reached unprecedented levels, but the human cost remains immeasurable. That is why the coordinating role of international organizations in humanitarian crises, cooperation with non-governmental organizations and civil society is so important.

We are all concerned about the consequences of the numerous armed conflicts, causing immense human suffering and forced displacement. Crises are becoming increasingly complex and difficult to resolve, while at the same time there is a decrease in political support and funding for their activities, increased political tension in host countries, increasing crime and illegal migration.

I believe we all realize today that effective law enforcement is needed to ensure both the timely receipt of humanitarian aid and coordinated support for efforts to achieve peace. Only coordinated actions can adequately respond to the needs of the most vulnerable groups. Bulgaria is a partner to the four Geneva Conventions relating to international humanitarian law as well as the three additional protocols.

This year, we mark 70 years since the Conventions entered into force for our country. The first comprehensive review of their implementation shows that, overall, national legislation and national measures are in line with the commitments made.

Dear Colleagues,

The ongoing war in Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East remind us that humanitarian norms—the very foundation of our shared humanity—must never be taken for granted. Bulgaria has covered all international standards and, with minor exceptions, has ratified the international instruments in this area and they have entered into force.

As a responsible member of the international community and the European Union, Bulgaria has been consistent in its solidarity. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, Bulgaria has accepted over 160,000 Ukrainian citizens, providing them with shelter, education, and healthcare. Our government works closely with local communities, non-governmental organizations, and international partners to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those affected both within and outside the country. In addition, Bulgaria actively contributes to EU and UN humanitarian initiatives, supports civil protection missions, and offers expertise in disaster response and refugee integration.

We believe that solidarity is not a matter of generosity, but responsibility. As parliamentarians, it is our duty to uphold the humanitarian principles enshrined in international law and to ensure that our political decisions protect the dignity of every human being, regardless of borders or beliefs.

Let Geneva's example remind us that humanitarian action is not just about providing aid—it is about protecting the moral fabric that binds us together as nations and as human beings.

Thank you for your attention!

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Rositsa Kirova, Head of the Bulgarian delegation