

**Ministerial Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration:
The Almaty Process**

5 June 2013, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Communiqué

(i) We, the High Representatives of the Central Asian States, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, [the Islamic Republic of Iran], [the Islamic Republic of Pakistan], and the Republic of Turkey¹, meeting in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan, for the Ministerial Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration: The Almaty Process, on the 5 of June 2013;

(ii) *Expressing* our deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and its people for generously hosting the Ministerial Conference;

(iii) *Recalling* the First Regional Ministerial Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration and the Almaty Declaration adopted unanimously on 16 March 2011 at the close of the conference;

(iv) *Recognizing* the continued need to address the multiple challenges resulting from complex migration dynamics and mixed migratory movements in Central Asia and the wider region;

(v) *Reaffirming* the importance of regional dialogue and practical cooperation to decrease incentives for irregular migration, manage borders, stem terrorist threats, combat transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, while preserving asylum space, ensuring protection of the human rights of all migrants, including labor migrants, ensuring the timely differentiation between various individuals on the move in order to identify protection or other specific needs, and facilitate regular migration;

(vi) *Reaffirming* the importance of establishing appropriate national legal frameworks – where these are not already in place – to ensure the human rights of migrants and to ensure access to protection for those in need;

(vii) *Reaffirming* commitment to international refugee protection instruments – to which states are party – including the principle of *non-refoulement*, international human rights standards, and durable solutions for refugees;

¹ The States listed in brackets have indicated the need for further internal coordination before formalizing their participation in the Almaty Process, pursuant to the silence procedure, as soon as possible but no later than 31 August 2013.

(viii) *Noting* that, since the first ministerial conference, several Central Asian States have developed good practices to address key challenges posed by mixed migration in the region at the national level;

(ix) *Recalling* that the Almaty Declaration calls for the development of a Regional Cooperation Framework on mixed migration, to advance regional dialogue and practical cooperation on issues of common concern and to address mixed movements in Central Asia, with the support of UNHCR and IOM;

(x) *Recognizing* the initiative of the Central Asian States to develop a Regional Cooperation Framework for Central Asia, as adopted by the National Coordinators of the four Central Asian States (Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan) at the National Coordinators' Meeting on 7 September 2012, that could be used as a basis for developing a broader regional cooperation framework.

(xi) *Expressing* our gratitude for the positive contributions and recommendations of the Senior Officials,

Have decided to:

1. Develop and strengthen the Almaty Process as a regional platform for development and implementation of initiatives to manage migration, while ensuring human rights and international protection;
2. Endorse the **Operating Modalities** of the Almaty Process as a platform for dialogue and cooperation on mixed migration and international protection.