**International Dialogue on Migration 2020**

**Panel 6: Applying the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts**

**(16 October 2020)**

**STATEMENT BY TURKEY**

**(Right of Reply)**

Mr. Moderator,

We thank the Director General and all of our colleagues in the IOM for organizing this event. It is very timely in terms of the challenges we have been facing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

As have been highlighted for the last two days, the challenge is global and requires collaboration at a global scale.

In this regard, Turkey believes the roadmap and goals set in the Global Compact for Migration are relevant more than ever in terms of responses to the pandemic as well as efforts of recovery.

Turkey had contributed significantly to the Compact at all of its stages and is determined to put it into practice as well as promote globally.

Mr. Moderator,

Despite the fact that the deliberations in this panel as well as in the previous ones have been very stimulating, we regrettably heard some comments from Armenia, which are at odds with this atmosphere.

While there was a chance to highlight one of the major migration related matter in the region also related to this event, which is the 1 million displaced Azerbaijani people caused by the Armenian occupation, the delegate of the said country consciously preferred not touching upon it.

This is indeed not the first time that Armenia is abusing humanitarian platforms like this one in order to reiterate its baseless and false allegations.

Therefore, we felt obliged to take the floor in order to reply briefly with no intention to further hijack the event.

We categorically reject all the claims by Armenia, who is in a desperate attempt to cover its unlawful as well as inhumane acts.

Armenian allegations about Turkish involvement in the field and about the fighters from outside are baseless and irrational.

Both Azerbaijan and the relevant authorities in Turkey totally and unequivocally rejected these Armenian fabrications.

Armenian disinformation campaign aims to divert attention away from its illegal occupation and portray Armenia as the victim.

We want the international community not to give any credibility to such outrageous claims.

We would like to put the issue into the right context by reminding the most basic facts concerning Nagorno Karabakh.

Armenia continue to occupy 20 percent of Azerbaijan’s territory. It caused displacement of 1 million people, used foreign terrorist fighters and attempted to change the demography in the lands it occupied.

Last but not least, it blatantly ignored four UN Security Council Resolutions which call for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of its forces from the lands of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Moderator,

In a state of frenzied desperation, Armenia is intensifying its attacks on the civilian population and infrastructure in Azerbaijan away from the conflict zone.

Armenian armed forces are targeting major cities in Azerbaijan like Gence, Mengiçevir, Abşeron, Hızı, Terter, Berde, Beylegan with long range artillery and ballistic missiles.

Armenian attacks, which constitute a clear violation of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions of 1949, have already caused more than 40 deaths among the civilian population, leaving 350 people wounded and nearly 700 houses damaged.

Armenia even violated the humanitarian ceasefires recently agreed.

On the other hand, Azerbaijan is trying to protect its population and restore its territorial integrity by invoking its inherent right of self-defense enshrined in the Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Azerbaijan is conducting its operations within its internationally recognized borders, on its own territory, which has been under illegal Armenian occupation for nearly three decades.

The position of Turkey has been very clear since the beginning on Nagorno Karabakh and we continue to support a solution to the problem on the basis of international law, within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Thank you.