 **Azərbaycan Respublikasının Permanent Mission**

**Cenevrədəki BMT Bölməsi of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

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**237 Route des Fayards, CH-1290 Versoix, Switzerland Tel: +41 (22) 9011815 Fax: +41 (22) 9011844 E-mail: geneva@mission.mfa.gov.az Web: www.geneva.mfa.gov.az**

**International Migration Dialogue 2020**

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

**Statement**

**delivered by Kamran Seyfullayev, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the**

**Republic of Azerbaijan**

**16 October 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Moderator,

We would like to thank IOM for organizing this dialogue which is very important in this challenging times. We also wish to thank distinguished panellists for their presentations and valuable thoughts.

As it is stated in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, migration is a defining feature of our globalized world, connecting societies within and across all regions. Therefore, it is essential that the international community unite with a view to overcome the challenges posed by today’s international migration, as well as benefit from its opportunities.

Global Compact resting on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and setting our common understanding with regard to migration provides us with necessary tools on this purpose, based on cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles.

Since Global Compact offers a vision for international migration and recognizes that a comprehensive approach is crucial to optimize the benefits of this phenomenon, while addressing risks and challenges for individuals and communities, it is very important for states to unite their efforts in reaching those targets that will enable migration to work for all.

Today, this pandemic is showing us how important is our fight for a more inclusive world. In the context of COVID-19, the need for migration governance is much higher. Therefore, the application of the Global Compact as a tool for the effective regulation of migration flows is important in these challenging times when disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on people on the move can have devastating effects for all.

In this context, Azerbaijan paid specific attention to the protection of health and livelihoods of migrants, refugees and IDPs in order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable category of people suffered from the effects of the Covid-19.

Our Government also attaches great importance to the upcoming regional review process as a part of and preparation to the global review of the Global Compact. We believe that this process will not only assist all stakeholders in fulfilling the objectives of the Compact and commitments undertaken therein, but will also contribute to the conduct of effective reviews of progress at the national level.

Mr. Moderator,

I should now also comment on what has been said by the representative of Armenia. It is regretful that the delegation of Armenia abused this session, where the discussions related to migrants and migration in the context of Covid-19 should have prevailed.

If Armenia so much cares about people on the move, one should ask them about the fate of forcibly displaced Azerbaijanis who were exposed to ethnic cleansing and forced to live their homes as the result of Armenian aggression and occupation. We should also ask Armenia about their recent provocations that its armed forces in the occupied territories of my country were carrying out that might have caused even new cases of displacement in Azerbaijan.

Armenian representatives talking about civilian casualties, made groundless accusation towards Azerbaijan for targeting civilian population. However, Armenia would never talk about the real attacks on civilians that currently is being carried out by Armenian armed forces shelling cities and towns of Azerbaijan that are located far from the conflict zone. Armenia is deliberately shelling civilians in Ganja, Tartar, Beylaqan, Barda, Shamkir, Mingachevir cities of Azerbaijan both from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and from its own territory violating the ceasefire regime. As a result of these shelling more than 40 civilians died with more than 200 wounded.

The counter-offensive operation of Azerbaijan, is aimed at protection of its population as well as restoration of its territorial integrity officially recognized by the international community, including through relevant UN Security Council resolutions, that will enable hundreds of thousands of displaced people to return to their homelands in safety and with dignity.

However, besides attempting to attract other parties to the conflict and create a large-scale regional war, Armenia’s intentions also include spreading terror among people of Azerbaijan.

We call on Armenia, instead of abusing this platform and accusing Azerbaijan, to comply with its international legal obligations and withdraw its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Thank you.