

STATEMENT

by **H.E. Mr. Artak Apitonian**

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

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Excellences, Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The increasingly complex landscape of migration continues to shape today's overall situation in the world, which is particularly challenging amid the unprecedented consequences of the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The various manifestations of migration become significantly acute as the pandemic is heavily affecting the most vulnerable groups in societies worldwide.

Gross violations of human rights remain major cause of mass exoduses. We are in the strongest opinion that the international actors should take decisive steps to develop early warning and, more importantly, early action mechanisms. People living in the areas of armed conflicts are the most vulnerable whose life is endangered every second.

Armenia is convinced that for the implementation of the **pledge of leaving no one behind, urgent humanitarian assistance** should be provided to all people in need, equally and without any discrimination, regardless of their location and irrespective of the political status of the territory that they live in.

The ongoing aggression against the people of Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh unleashed on September 27 by Azerbaijan with the direct and full support of Turkey, forces me to alert you about a **new humanitarian crisis**, which is rapidly escalating and threatening the global peace and security, with a potential to generate new flows of refugees and

IDPs. The Azerbaijani armed forces deliberately harm civilians, their health and property. Hospitals, schools, churches, roads, pipelines, communication and other essential facilities in Nagorno-Karabakh are under Azerbaijani heavy shelling.

The overt, unprovoked and unjustified aggressive campaign by Azerbaijan and Turkey through the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, a fact confirmed by many world leaders, international media and human rights organizations, is in flagrant violation of the international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions.

Azerbaijan's unlawful, indiscriminate military attacks also heavily affect the region's critical civilian infrastructure, including the healthcare capacities, which are already under intense pressure due to the spread of the coronavirus disease and the related challenges.

In the midst of this global pandemic, when solidarity is vital for a rapid recovery, such barbaric aggression demonstrates Azerbaijan's blatant failure to respect the **UN Secretary General's appeal for a global ceasefire**, which Armenia and Artsakh fully and unequivocally supported.

Today, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh are **in dire need of urgent life-saving humanitarian assistance**, which we urge to provide in accordance with the UN Charter, the international humanitarian law and the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. Tens of thousands of displaced families face shortages of food, water and access to medical care. We count on the civilized world to stand with these people who not only defend their right to self-determination, but also explicitly fight against terrorism sponsored by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The refugee and migrant crises around the world are critical but not insurmountable. Our own experience tells us that the humanitarian situations of this magnitude require concerted efforts and cannot be solved by any one state alone. Our responses to large

movements of people should be grounded in our common values of **equitable responsibility sharing, non-discrimination and respect for human rights**.

Armenia welcomes the Global Compact's comprehensive approach to the governance of migration and has already submitted its **first National Voluntary Review** of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The Government of Armenia exerts utmost efforts at ensuring a **rapid integration of migrants into the society**. We are committed to integrating our migration policy into our **Sustainable Development Agenda** and providing comprehensive solutions to the problems facing migrants today.

Thank you.