

**Statement by Mr. Alimirzamin Askerov, Head of the Delegation of the Republic
of Azerbaijan at the High-level Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global
Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
10-11 December 2018, Marrakesh, Morocco**

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to thank the brotherly people and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for their generous offer to host the High-level Intergovernmental Conference to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as well as for hospitality and excellent organization of this historic event.

Mr. President, migration is a global phenomenon and all countries are simultaneously countries of origin, transit and destination, albeit to a different extent. Migration can bring benefit to our countries, if managed properly. The Global Compact fully reflects in its name our main goal - to make migration safe, orderly and regular. The first-ever United Nations global agreement to offer a 360-degree vision of international migration is a result of eighteen months of consultations and negotiations. Azerbaijan contributed to the process of elaboration of this document and we support its non-legally binding nature and underline the sovereign rights of states to determine their migration policy.

We all should be proud of the product of this collective wisdom, respecting and protecting human rights of migrants and presenting us the guidance on how to turn the migration to the profit of our countries. The implementation of the promises that we have made in the Compact taking into account different national realities, capacities and priorities will make our countries the beneficiaries of the global mobility. For achieving this goal, we have, first of all, to ensure that migration becomes voluntary choice, not a desperate and forceful act to escape from extreme poverty, climate change, violence and conflict. The increased attention should be given to addressing root causes and drivers of migration.

By this Compact we have decided to turn the migration to the instrument of hope, development, and better future and for reaching our aims we should start to work first of all at the national level. Azerbaijan's commitments to protect the human rights of migrants have been reflected in our accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of their Families. The Government of Azerbaijan now

is working on the new national migration strategy which will include a number of goals envisaged in the Global Compact, and we had already held six national consultations with the support of the IOM country office on the prospects that the adoption of this document can bring at the national and international levels.

Taking into account the strong ties between peace, sustainable development, human rights and migration, we should accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and in this regard, we commend the close linkage to the 2030 Agenda in the Compact. We also should demonstrate full respect for international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law. As stated by the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, “refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants are not the problem; the problem lies in conflict, persecution and hopeless poverty”. Thus, without eradicating poverty and ending violence and conflict we cannot expect for a tangible results from the implementation of this document.

Mr. President, although the number of people fleeing their homes has reached the unprecedented level, we see no solutions in sight for the too many unresolved conflicts that continue to produce displacement and human sufferings. While the plight of refugees and migrants makes the headlines, the international community must also keep in mind 40 million internally displaced people, many of whom still find themselves in protracted situations in different corners of the globe. Without the timely protection for IDPs today, they may become refugees and migrants tomorrow as recognized in the New York Declaration.

We hope that the references to IDPs in the 2030 Agenda, the goal set by the Agenda for Humanity to reduce internal displacement at least 50 per cent by 2030, as well as the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which recognizes the need for reflection on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for IDPs and to prevent and reduce such displacement, will garner the attention of the international community to the grave situation of millions of IDPs worldwide, approximately one million of whom live in protracted displacement situation in Azerbaijan, as a result of ongoing aggression and occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenia.

To conclude, Mr. President, we hope that the implementation of the Global Compact will be a success story, a story which will inspire the global community to improve migration governance for the benefit of all.

We look forward to fruitful discussions and wish every success to the work of the Conference.

Thank you.