

STATEMENT

**delivered by H.E. Mr. Vüsal Hüseynov
Chief of the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the Global Refugee Forum**

Geneva, 18 December 2019

Dear Mr. High Commissioner,

Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to take part and deliver a statement in the first ever Global Refugee Forum, which is a historic event and at the same time profound action in terms of solidarity and burden sharing related to the problems of refugees. We believe this platform will enable States and other stakeholders to maximize their potential in addressing also root causes of everlasting refugee crises.

Countless and tremendous efforts by the international community have been and still being exhausted towards the solution of the problems of refugees, but yet we are still far from the happy end. Numbers are growing, needs are escalating but unfortunately measures and endeavors fail to catch up with refugee influx.

International community is now focused on and expect bold measures, as well as ambitious outcomes from the Global Compact on Refugees in which the world has agreed to address the refugee situation in a more holistic and proactive way. We believe this Forum and follow-up actions will prove that international community has made the right decision by endorsing this significant document.

Azerbaijan as a true supporter of Global Compact on Refugees and due to its historical background fully understands complexity of the protracted refugee situations and acknowledges struggle by the States receiving large refugee populations. In the aftermath of the occupation of our territories by neighboring Armenia one million people out of then eight million population became refugees and internally displaced persons in Azerbaijan. We understand and appreciate role of global community, as well as, assistance of international organizations, in particular UNHCR, who supported us in overcoming this humanitarian catastrophe. Unfortunately, due to continuing occupation and aggression policy of Armenia hundreds of thousands still cannot return to their homeland.

When we talk about solutions we mostly focus on existing hot spots or trending problems but we put aside situations which await its solution for years. As a country suffering from similar type of situation regrettably we have to underline lack of solidarity, double standards in

application of international legal instruments as contributing factors to escalation of numbers and scale of the problem.

We believe that this platform will also enable stakeholders to mobilize all efforts and ensure solidarity towards solving long-standing situations in limbo together with extinguishing conflicts in global hotspots.

Lastly we want to note that Azerbaijan will continue close cooperation with the UNHCR and consider making increase in its support to global programmes of the organization, as well as including complimentary protection to the national legislation in the upcoming years. We will further increase our efforts:

to include refugees, as well as persons under the protection of UNHCR into the medical insurance system:

to facilitate legal employment and access to labour market for refugees;

to grant tertiary education scholarship to a person per year who has been granted refugee status in Azerbaijan.

Finally, we do hope that when we gather for the next Global Refugee Forum we will witness a world with fewer refugees, less conflicts and less challenges with the common and concerted efforts, as well as engagement by all the stakeholders of international community.

Mr. Chairman,

Now I would like to continue my statement, speaking on behalf of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement.

I would like to inform the distinguished participants of the Forum that at the XVIIIth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku on 25-26 October, the Heads of State and Government of NAM Member States took a specific focus on refugee problems. As the world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record, the NAM Member States addressed a number of cases involving flow of refugees, particularly due to instability and crises in different parts of the world.

In Baku Final Document, the NAM Member States recalled with appreciation the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted in September 2016, by virtue of which, the

General Assembly decided to develop an intergovernmental process, which started in 2017, towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and a global compact on refugees.

The Heads of State and Government also emphasized the need to respect international refugee law, as applicable, which is in line with the spirit of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

Refugee problems that enhanced nowadays both in scale and complexity, require the international community to attach more focused attention and sustain continuous effort towards their solutions mainly in countries of origin and as appropriate, in the countries affected by refugee crises. Therefore, the NAM Member States attach particular significance to the Global Compact on Refugees as a representation of political will of the international community to operationalize the principle of responsibility and burden-sharing.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the presence of large-scale refugee movements and protracted refugee situations around the world, the NAM Member States are of the view that the measures to alleviate the sufferings of refugees must be accompanied by dedicated efforts of the international community, as a whole, to address the root causes of the problem with a view to expediting durable solutions.

The NAM Member States also underline the utmost importance of the promotion and protection of human rights of all refugees, and in this regard, call upon all UN Member States to avoid discriminatory measures against refugees, as to race, religion or country of origin.

The Non-Aligned Movement considers this Forum as a unique platform for sharing of good practices by the UN Member States and other stakeholders, and is looking forward to successful deliberations aimed at ensuring effective implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. In this regard, the NAM Member States express their readiness to explore options for further development of cooperation with the UNHCR and other UN humanitarian agencies.

Thank you.