



Statement

**In Response to UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Mr. Volker Türk and IOM Senior Regional Adviser for Europe and Central Asia, Mr. Manfred Profazi as delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian, Permanent Representative of Armenia, at the 1184th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
May 3, 2018**

Mr. Chair,

I would like to start by welcoming and thanking UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Mr. Volker Türk and IOM Senior Regional Adviser for Europe and Central Asia, Mr. Manfred Profazi for their informative presentations.

At the very outset, let me indicate that my delegation would prefer to hold two separate discussions on the OSCE conflict related displacement and migration. This position is embedded in both OSCE commitments and processes taking place in other international organizations particularly general consensus in UN to elaborate on two different Global Compacts respectively on Migration and Refugees.

As far as the OSCE commitments are concerned, we proceed from the understanding that the respective Hamburg Decision provides an inclusive framework for developing OSCE role in governing safe, orderly and regular migration.

We would not agree to mainstream into the OSCE work on migration issues, which do not belong to this decision. Therefore, within this discussion we are not referring to OSCE conflict related displacement by reiterating that issues, which belong to the conflict cycle such as IDPs should be addressed in holistic manner along side with the rights of other groups of people affected by conflicts, including people residing in conflict areas.

Let me also add here that the position of my delegation on further deliberations on migration including in human dimension will depend on the strict implementation of the above-mentioned Hamburg decision.

Now, let me briefly highlight Armenia's expectations with regard to the cooperation with international organizations working in the field of migration.

Armenia looks forward to cooperate with both the UNHCR and IOM on the issue of integration of more than twenty thousands of Syrian Armenians. We acknowledge the role of IOM in conducting reforms of migration management in Armenia through extensive capacity building, advising policy, research, technical assistance, public awareness as well as direct assistance to various categories of migrants.

It is with strong support of the IOM that Armenia signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

Also expertise of IOM has been essential in designing bilateral agreements on labour migration, introduction of biometrics in identity documents and integrated border management. It should

be mentioned that the OSCE Office in Yerevan had jointly implemented some important projects on migration. We will continue to seek the IOM's further assistance in managing migration.

In this regard, we welcome creative approach of the IOM in forging wide partnership among all stakeholders including prominent diaspora organizations

Armenia looks forward to continue cooperation with the UNHCR including on the issue related to the humanitarian access in conflict areas including Nagorno-Karabakh and prevention of displacement. However, we will reserve our right to come back to these issues in more appropriate setting of the dialogue with UNHCR.

In concluding, let me wish every success to Mr. Türk and Mr. Profazi in in their future endeavors.

I thank you.