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Statement of H.E. Mr. Vusal Huseynov,
Chief of the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan
at the Plenary session of the International Migration Review Forum

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Mr. President,

I shall start by thanking you for organizing this Review Forum which provides a good opportunity to analyze the current state of affairs and exchange national practices in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

In recent years, migration crises, as well as challenges aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have put a hard test on the existing mechanisms of migration governance across the world. However, the GCM proved to be an effective instrument regulating various aspects of global human mobility.

Azerbaijan was among the first countries in the region to join and support the GCM through national consultations process conducted in 2017. My country was also among the first in the region to present Voluntary National Review on GCM, as well as to establish the UN Network on Migration at the national level.

Our Delegation is honored to participate in this Forum as one of the 33 champion countries for the implementation of GCM. Besides the privilege that the Championship status brings, it also entails responsibilities to promote GCM and share best practices on its application. To this end, we have already submitted a number of best practices that represent over 25% of total number in the Repository of Practices from the UNECE region and made more than 10 pledges which put Azerbaijan on the top of the list for the number of pledges undertaken. I am also pleased to inform that Azerbaijan will make another pledge by contributing to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

As a Champion Country, promotion of GCM at the national, regional and global levels has been among the main priorities for us. Azerbaijan, together with two other champion countries – Luxembourg and Portugal, convened a virtual event for 56 Member States of the UNECE region. Nationally we organized 3-stage national multi-stakeholder consultations in collaboration with IOM country office to raise awareness on GCM ahead of IMRF. We have also organized a regional training with the participation of Delegations from 10 countries in the framework of the Regional Training Center on Migration. This is the joint initiative which is being implemented by Azerbaijan and International Organization for Migration as a key migration knowledge management and capacity building hub in the region.

Mr. President,

My country has a complex migration background due to its geopolitical position and diverse ethnic composition. The liberation of territories of Azerbaijan in 2020 from almost 30-year-long occupation paved the way for the increase in internal, regional and cross-border migration dynamics and opened up new horizons and opportunities. I believe that the extension of GCM implementation also in the liberated territories will ensure dignified return of IDPs and allow to take advantage of the positive consequences of migration processes throughout the country and the region.

In conclusion, I am confident that the Review Forum will help to identify a new vision of a strong international cooperation for further successful implementation of GCM. Azerbaijan will continue to mobilize all its efforts for it and maintain its status as a champion country.

Thank you.