

**STATEMENT**  
**by**  
**Armen Ghazaryan, Head of Migration Service of Armenia**  
**at the International Migration Review Forum**  
*(New York, 19 May, 2022)*

**Madam Chair,**

**Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia, I would like to welcome the organization of International Migration Review Forum, as it gives an excellent opportunity to better reflect on current migration trends and to take stock of the global efforts in this area since the adoption of Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and Global Compact on Refugees.

In strong cooperation with IOM, Armenia has submitted its first national voluntary review on the implementation of Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration back in 2020 and the second one this year.

Armenia has continuously made significant efforts to achieve the objectives of both Global Compacts, improving migration management and protection of displaced people.

One of the large-scale programs that we have implemented lately is a housing program for refugees in protracted situation, through issuing housing purchase certificates.

At the same time, we are currently faced with another wave of displacement as a result of aggression and use of force against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. A significant number of the displaced persons from Artsakh may not be able to return safely even now with the ceasefire in place.

The priorities of the Government have expanded to include the creation of support mechanisms for the affected population,

Our efforts in this area are strongly in line with both compacts, notably with the principle of enhancing self-reliance of refugees and ensuring social cohesion of the host communities. In this regard, the involvement and support of international community is essential.

**Madam Chair,**

Since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the economies of states around the world. However, the impact of the pandemic on the mobility of people was the most obvious and severe.

Despite all the challenges that our country faces, Armenia provides full accesses to Covid-19 vaccination to all migrants, refugees and displaced people residing in our country. From the very beginning of the pandemic, the Government took steps to organize the return of over 40,000 Armenian citizens. Moreover, in 2020, the Armenian Government has adopted a state funded program to support the reintegration of citizens returning to Armenia.

In this area, we have extensively cooperated with our international partners, particularly with IOM to deliver access to life-saving primary health care and other services to migrants and displaced population.

**Madam Chair,**

The pandemic pushed and motivated us to accelerate the digitalization of migration management systems in Armenia. I would like to particularly mention the work permit system for foreigners, which we have introduced since the beginning of this year.

A unified electronic platform allows all state bodies involved in the administrative process of issuing a work permit to simultaneously access one system, reducing the time spent and improving overall administration. Introduction of this system addresses many of the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration, particularly facilitating access to adequate documentation, enhancing regular pathways for legal migration and providing additional tools for preventing, combatting and eradicating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.

**Madam Chair,**

Recent migration trends yet again revealed the urgency for clear commitments, systematic and transformative responses. These experiences also demonstrated efficiency of inclusive policies, ones that build on cooperative models between Governments, international partners, civil society and other stakeholders. As our country continues to address challenges and security threats, we reiterate our full commitment to multilateral efforts and human-rights based solutions to growing challenges in the area of migration and mobility.

Thank you.