

**STATEMENT**  
**by Mr. Armen Ghazaryan**  
**Head of Migration and Citizenship Service of the Republic of Armenia**  
**at the Second Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular**  
**Migration (GCM) in the UNECE region**  
*(Geneva, 11 March 2024)*

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia, I would like to welcome the organization of the Second Regional Review of the GCM in the Economic Commission for Europe Region, as it gives an excellent opportunity to better reflect on current migration trends and to take stock of the global and regional efforts of the GCM implementation progress and challenges based on the outcomes of the International Migration Review Forum 2022.

Armenia has continuously made efforts to achieve the objectives of both Global Compacts, improving migration management and protection of displaced people. We highly prioritize the implementation of commitments, undertaken within the framework of the GCM. Armenia aims to ensure the proper reflection of GCM commitments especially in policy development, which will support both the implementation and reporting on the Compact.

Dear colleagues,

The most significant development concerning the first set of GCM objectives is the ongoing migration institutional reforms in our country. In 2022, Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS) was created under the Ministry of Interior of Armenia. As a result, most migration-related structures and functions are consolidated, and the functional centralization has increased the efficiency of migration management. The goal of the migration institutional reforms is to have the unified and efficient management of the migration chain, taking into account the security component of the processes, as well as to transition to citizen-centric services.

Digitalization of migration management is of very significant importance to us. EU-Armenia Readmission Case Management Electronic System (2019), Work Permit System (2022) and Asylum Case Management Electronic System (2022) are already digitalized and currently we have initiated the digitalization of all services in the field of migration. Digitalization of administrative processes on citizenship, and issuing residence permits has already been launched. Moreover, the development and introduction of the new system of ID cards and biometric passports is underway through public-private partnership, reserving a supervisory and quality control mandate to the state. Introduction of electronic systems address

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 preventing, combatting and eradicating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.

The Government has prioritized the area of return, readmission and reintegration (GCM Objective 21). Armenia continues to make significant progress towards her commitments under the bilateral and multilateral readmission agreements. Moreover, effective coordination on reintegration issues and strong cooperation with various stakeholders, particularly with NGOs, was mainstreamed. In 2023 the Repatriation and Integration Center was established with the aim of ensuring a smoother integration process for repatriates, and support their active engagement in the socio-political, cultural, and economic life of the country (GCM Objective 19).

At the same time, we are currently faced with another wave of displacement as a result of use of military force by Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. More than 100 thousand Armenian refugees were forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian Government adopted a decision of granting temporary protection to the forcibly displaced persons from NK (GCM Objective 4). 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. In this area, we have extensively cooperated with our international partners, particularly with IOM and UNHCR to deliver access to life-saving primary care and other services to migrants and displaced population.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the 23 Objectives of the GCM are important guidelines for the Republic of Armenia in the process of development of its migration related policies and I would like to thank all the parties that have taken part in creating this important document.

Thank you.