

Post-International Migration Review Forum Debrief for Azerbaijan

30, June 2022

10:00-11:00

[Zoom conferencing](#)

Note for the file (NFF)

List of Participants

1. Ms. Vladanka Andreeva, UN Resident Coordinator, UNNM co-chair
2. Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev, Chief of IOM Mission in Azerbaijan, UNNM co-chair
3. Mr. Vusal Huseynov, Chief of State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan
4. Mr. Guido Ambroso UNHCR Country Representative
5. Mr. Azer Allahverenov chair of Public Council under SMS
6. Mr. Vugar Salmanov, National Program Officer in UNICEF Azerbaijan
7. Ms. Leyla Seyidzade, National Specialist in UNDP Azerbaijan
8. Mr. Rashad Aliyev, Project Coordinator at OHCHR
9. Ms. Zulfiyga Guliyeva, Project Coordinator at OHCHR
10. Mr. Islam Guliyev Secretary of MFA of Azerbaijan Republic
11. Ms. Nazrin Aliyeva, International Cooperation Specialist in ASAN Service Agency
12. Ms. Nargiz Karimova, Senior Area Coordinator of IOM Mission in Azerbaijan
13. Mr. Ilgar Xudiyev Media Communication Coordinator in IOM Mission in Azerbaijan
14. Mr. Elmar Mursaliyev, Division head of State Migration Service
15. Ms. Zemfira Mustafayeva – head of “Women support Initiative” Public Union

Summary of the Meeting

Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev

- Greeted participants for joining Debrief meeting despite the extreme busy schedule in time being. The UN Country team returned from conference in Zenghilan last night and thanked for joining meeting in such early time. The co-chair congratulated Mr. Vusal Huseynov, head of State Migration Service (SMS) on successfully leading the delegation of Azerbaijan Government to IMRF. Mr. Gjorgjiev opened the meeting stating that the purpose of the meeting is to listen to reflections of Azerbaijan delegation to IMRF and further discuss how the Action recommended in Progress Declaration can be maximized through future steps.

Ms. Vladanka Andreeva,

- Joined congratulations to Azerbaijan Delegation on active and successful representation in IMRF. She heard firsthand feedback and reflection from UN General Assembly during PGA visit to Azerbaijan one week after IMRF and felt proud to hear great appraisal voiced about Azerbaijan’s contribution to IMRF. Azerbaijan co-chaired one of important Roundtables and provided valuable contribution to Policy Debate and made statement in Plenary Session, as well as bilateral meetings are very important in range. As GCM Champion country the commitment of State Migration is obviously taken very serious through all the stages, and SMS shows great potential and will to get GCM objectives implemented effectively. The pledge taken by Azerbaijan regarding financial contribution to M-MPTF is extremely valuable. We believe we can do a lot with such political support. IMRF Progress Declaration sets extra grounds and presents guidance for next steps, as well as reiterates the principles that we stand on in migration field, such as respect to human rights of migrants, Gender sensitivity, and child responsiveness and etc. In UNNM we did not

agree yet about solid action points and we need at current stage use the momentum created by IMRF. It is important to focus and agree on concrete action points in order to take effectiveness of Network to the next higher level.

Here the role of IOM should be also appreciated because there is active and hard work standing behind of achievements in IMRF and we highly believe that it the due course of same activeness will keep going.

We observe the great will and interest on RTCM and continue to be reflected in statements and active work in that regard. We see there are a lot of work that can be done, and the course is taken forward. We celebrate 30th anniversary of UN engagement in Azerbaijan and success of IMRF was one of positive occasions in the range of events.

Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev,

- Thanked UNRC for great and positive appreciation for efforts and taken actions, as well as sharing positive insights for concept of RTCM. RTCM will follow its activity with ToT and You will have a chance to elaborate more during that ToT event.

It is important to see that IMRF has highlighted the importance of implementing migration policies on the grounds of human rights principles. We do believe migrants should stand on the centre of policy targets and their fundamental rights should be prioritized and they should get access and opportunity for realizing their rights. The GCM and strong statements in IMRF proves that it is reasonable and important agenda and greatly aligned with SDGs. In that regard we appreciate all efforts made in UN level which highlights and upholds the social, economic benefits of migration, calculated for harnessing the potential of migration.

Azerbaijan Government was on time with pledges, Voluntary review submission, sharing good practices to promote the policy approach of Azerbaijan migration management. We received appraisals about Azerbaijan's proactive engagement in and before IMRF. IMRF is a great beginning for future IMRFs and it reminds us the necessity for continuing efforts without decreasing our speed. Progress Declaration reinforces the importance of improving data policy and we are close to finalization of Migration profile as it is running last review. Another aspect which gained attractiveness in Progress Declaration was engagement with diaspora and private which was also reiterated in Dublin Convention. The role of which diaspora in acceleration of economic diversification in Azerbaijan should be kept in attention and joint project of IOM and SMS on enhancing socio-economic benefits of remittances in Azerbaijan is in line with the defined action and we are expecting positive results of the project actions.

Mr. Vusal Huseynov

- I welcome respective co-chairs, Ms. Vladanka Andreeva and Mr. Vladimir members of UNNM. It is pleasure to meet you and would like to thank for organizing Debrief Meeting. It is pleasure to hear such great appraisal addressed to Azerbaijan Delegation.

Azerbaijan is one of first countries which joined GCM and spent efforts in implementation of its objectives and principles. If we today talk about achievements they are result of attention given by Government to principles and objectives of GCM as well the positive practice that we share is the result of joint cooperative action. Through the years we set our policy based on the international standards. As you are aware Azerbaijan is one of the countries in the which established UN Network on Migration in earlies stage and IMRF is one of the results of early taken action. GCM is the document which covers every aspect of migration management and is guidebook for migration officials. We believe if implemented and followed correctly it will indeed produce positive results.

IMRF was consist of three key sections: Roundtables, Policy Debate and Plenary Hearing. Azerbaijan co-chaired in one out of four Roundtables and its engagement in Policy debate as well as Plenary Session was visible and among 32 GCM Champion countries¹ Azerbaijan was remarkably the active one. In this work we received great support from UNNM Azerbaijan, particularly from IOM and we are pleased to express gratitude to UN Resident Coordinator as well for overall supervision and all UN NM member agencies for organizing this Debrief meeting.

¹ After IMRF the Republic of Türkiye has been admitted as GCM Champion Country and number raised to 33.

Forum itself and discussion feeds all with bright and prosperous ideas. Progress Declaration itself presents guidance on next steps and in today's meeting we may put forward steps. For us IMRF is just beginning and we are intended to continue active engagement and we don't plan to slow down our speed. We believe this meeting will give good ideas about how we should act in order to get more positive results.

We believe UNNM Azerbaijan is great opportunity and is entity with huge expertise and with correct agreement and collaboration we may achieve more effective results. As State Migration Service we are ready and open to further discussions and suggestions of collaboration. We discussed it one of meeting with Mr. Gjorgjiev as well, that we may further expand relations with other GCM Champion countries and to share their experiences in order to carry out more result-based activities, and ultimately increase the number of GCM Champion countries to 100 and more. The exchange of experience between GCM Champion countries and promotion of the process would open more options for future activities. Under UNNM we developed Progress Plan to play a role of Workplan for activities under UN Network on Migration in Azerbaijan and we discussed and believe that after this meeting we may add new activities and formulate concrete steps of activities to follow, to set priorities and get agreed for action in close future.

For us the engagement of civil society is extremely important and we raised the importance of following whole of government and whole of society principle in GCM implementation therefore we foster and promote their active role in discussions.

Besides all we are very much thankful for appraisal that we receive in IMRF level about our engagement.

Regional Training Centre is very important project for us and gained priority in recent period and we are pleased to hear support from Ms. Vladanka and Mr. Vladimir. We are targeting by the end of this year to come up with solid steps about realization of the project Planned result. RTCM is also good tool to promote GCM among migration officials and we think it may contain special training course on GCM.

I am please to share my reflections on whole process of IMRF which covers different event conducted prior the Forum dates. We conducted with support of IOM and with participation of UNNM members different consultations, hearings where productive discussions and dialogue atmosphere was established. In UNNM webpage the practices of Azerbaijan have been attracted in depth and we are among the countries which made range of pledges dedicated to IMRF. Once again express my gratitude for support in all stages of the process.

Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev

- The IMRF was conducted with series of activities fostering the dialogue and discussions ahead and Azerbaijan could take the correct mode of events and contributed to the discussion space. Three consultations (with Youth, civil society and government institutions) created space for collecting insights from relevant stakeholders and eventually it was correctly reflected in Azerbaijan's statements in IMRF and policy debate. The results and eventually the process will be described in short presentation.

Ms. Nargiz Karimova

- GCM was new stage in migration management and UNNM established in order to support and guide Members states how to achieve the objectives and follow the principles of migration management. The key moment was that the legal structure of management system was not target in defined objectives, instead people /migrants were in the centre of objectives. Therefore GCM objectives put emphasis on provision and protection of rights of migrants and review of its implementation guided to be conducted in the same principle. The recommendations defined in Progress Declaration again puts migrants and people into the centre of results discussion. To maximize the results of UN Migration Network the Member states agreed to establish UNNMs in national and regional levels. Azerbaijan also took active role in and with great government support and supportive approach from UNRC Office and IOM Mission in Azerbaijan was one of countries which initiated and established UNNM in earlier stages and accepted the role of GCM Championship together with 32 other countries in 2021. Its engagement with IMRF was also exceptional because its first pledge was made jointly with Portugal and Luxembourg about arrangement of "100 days to IMRF"

dedicated to technical discussions over IMRF. Azerbaijan has conducted event dedicated to IMRF during Migration week on February 14-18, 2022 and conducted three level consultations to discuss takeaways from GCM and expectations from IMRF. Azerbaijan was represented with higher ministerial level. The active engagement of Azerbaijan during sessions of IMRF (Roundtables, Policy Debate and Plenary session) was quite active and it was reflected in Briefings of UNNM Secretariat as well. Azerbaijan conducted series of Bilateral meetings as higher as President of General Assembly and head of UNNM Secretariat. All meetings received full media coverage and reflected the attention on IMRF.

Progress Declaration presents 53 action points revealed in results of reviewing the implementation of 23 GCM Objectives and IMRF revealed the if 53 action recommendation will be taken into consideration then in next IMRF we may get more steps forward in proper implementation of GCM. It focusses on GCM objectives which were less and best reflected in National Reviews.

Mr. Azer Allahverenov

I congratulate Azerbaijan delegation to IMRF for high level and successful participation which created positive reflection and proved the attention delivered by Government on migration. I observed that there is hard work staying behind of this result. The process of IMRF was observed with ranges of events and active discussion and dialogue with active engagement of civil society representatives. We received all relevant information and invitation to events, we were created opportunity to apply for special accreditation and alongwith some agencies we received special accreditation, even though the physical participation in New York was not achieved due to objective reasons. We had opportunity during discussions to voice our recommendations as civil society representatives. We also see some points being reflected in Progress Declaration. The key message is that Progress Declaration refers to achieving results in all levels of migration management which means that Civil society is also integral part of GCM implementation. We are active consulting party and it is good experience that our feedback are considered, however we need to see Civil society representatives not only in discussion level rather in practical level as well. In Public Council under SMS we also set action plan and defined 36 direction and we need to get access for funding and we believe in future activities Civil society should be involved in practical level as well. There are established 8 working groups where 80 and 100 NGOs are involved in it and approximately 10 of them work in migration. We are likely to inform that grant policy in Azerbaijan is going to soften and we believe that Donor Organizations should consider their strategy and it will need reconsideration of CSO's engagement in practical action. We also suggest that CSOs are included in Progress Plan as separate component in activities in order to preserve the active engagement and overcome financial limitation of CSOs in Azerbaijan. We stand ready to provide list of engagements. For example in order to use potential of UNNM and it can be jointly used through action directions.

Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev

We share the same understanding that CSO need to be engaged in active levels of implementation and proposals can be put directly in consideration. Also Private sector also needs to be involved. We will follow up on concrete actions

Mr. Guido Ambroso

Congratulations on great job. UNHCR is ready to take active role engagement and Regional Training Centre and cover some sessions of Refugee law.

Mr. Vladanka Andreeva

We see from presentations that we created good baseline to move forward because IMRF is start point and we did well but I agree that there is need to set concrete plan on action points and we suggest to look again to the Progress Plan we made in shadow of Progress Declaration again to how better we may reflect it. Suggest to gather again in couple of month and discuss which action we come up with.

Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev

Dear UNNM colleagues, and co-chair. The notes are taken on further action points:

Concluding the action plan with concrete priorities driven from Progress Declaration, Involvement of CSOs in practical operations, close linkages with private sector, consideration of gender sensitivity and women, as well as UN Agencies operating in regional level without operation in national level.

Mr. Vusal Huseynov

Thankful for the positive feedback and appreciations for IMRF. We see also from points that there are a lot of work raised from IMRF and we don't get relaxed and assumed very serious task and going to follow on Action points actively. We also take notes of recommendations on CSOs we revisit our agenda on that to see how better it can be reflected. We rely on potential of UNNM and looking forward using it properly.

Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev

Grateful to representatives from UNNM member Agencies, Government and CSO who take observer role in UNNM. The recommendations are taken in process and will be illustrated in Planning and submitted for further agreement in order to maximize the results and takeaways.

Looking forward for next meeting.