



ARMENIA

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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ZOHRAB MNATSAKANYAN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution

PANEL 2: Human-made crises as drivers of migration

PANEL 3: Adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters as drivers of migration

The issue brief once again reminds us that the lack of respect for international human rights and humanitarian law has compounded growing displacement.

The global displacement challenges and on-going international and regional crises significantly affect Armenia as well. Armenia has been consistently developing legal foundations in line with international norms and its obligations, as well as operational capacity to address situations of mass influx of migrants and refugees. Armenia's Law "On Refugees and Asylum", prescribes detailed provisions enabling the Government to extend temporary protection in situations of mass influx, equated to protection of all refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in Armenia. Most lately, in December 2015 the Parliament of Armenia has approved amendments to the Law "On Refugees and Asylum" to expand provisions on granting asylum in cases of mass influx of refugees and migrants. Furthermore, the Government has elaborated a detailed Plan of Action for the preparedness of state institutions to address such situations and assigned specific roles and responsibilities to all relevant government bodies and local authorities, including Ministries of Emergency Situations, Territorial Administration, Health, Labour and Social Affairs, the State Migration Service, the Police, the National Security Agency, etc. The Action Plan address four

general directions of action, including the reception of refugees and migrants in mass influx at border points, their temporary settlement, provision of aid and addressing their immediate needs, and addressing their legal status.

Operational preparedness to address situations of mass influx is advanced by way of trainings and drills. "Shant 2015" Training exercise, held in September 2015 aimed at mobilising all relevant government bodies and agencies to assess and strengthen their operational capacity in situations of mass influx as a result of natural disasters and conflicts.

Effective legal frameworks and strong operational capacity at national level are primary and critical. At the same time, we encourage the consistent promotion of international cooperation aimed at assisting states in their efforts to enhance effective preparedness and response mechanisms, the elaboration of best practices and practical courses at international level, including through the use of relevant capacity within the United Nations.

We agree that people displaced across borders by conflicts are refugees, rather than migrants and their situation will be addresses in the Global Compact on Refugees. The Global Compact on Migration should build on existing legal and policy frameworks and recommend better global governance, coordination and cooperation, aimed at maximising the positive impact of migration and reducing the adverse factors that motivate people to move. The Global Compact should also identify the ways and means of fostering international cooperation related to urgent provision of humanitarian access, assistance and protection for migrants. The issues of burden sharing and responsibility sharing need to be addressed in the spirit of solidarity and with due respect to the needs of the affected people. There is a need for the development and humanitarian actors to cooperate and collaborate better together. Human rights and fundamental freedoms, safety and dignity of migrants, justice and accountability, preventing atrocity crimes, including the crime of genocides, preventing discrimination and countering xenophobia that migrants frequently encounter, should be mainstreamed in the Global Compact.

We look forward to working with others towards mainstreaming these issues in the Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Thank you.