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Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Working session 13 “Rights of migrants”

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Thanks Mr. Moderator,

Our delegation would like to recommend the following considerations for today’s discussion:

Recognition of the sovereignty of States in managing migration flows and developing and implementing national migration policy should be the basis and guiding principle of our activities in this regard. This key principle is recognized in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and in the draft Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

In the Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision 3/16, the participating States recognized the leading role of the United Nations, so possible efforts of OSCE should (i) not duplicate, but contribute and complement the activities undertaken within the United Nations, and (ii) our discussions on migration should build on and should be based on the commitments agreed upon in the United Nations.

OSCE’s efforts should concentrate on addressing migration-related issues where the OSCE has developed its expertise and good practices, first and foremost in border management and facilitating regular cross-border movements of people, based on the rule of law; fighting trafficking in human beings along migration routes; combating discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia towards migrants and their families;

We should sharpen the focus of our efforts not only to (a) improve the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees, but also (b) to address the root-causes of displacement and involuntary migration, as stipulated in the Helsinki Document of 1992.

Migration and refugee flows should be managed in a balanced way and efforts should focus not only on the rights of migrants and refugees, but also on their duties, in particular, duty to respect laws, rules and regulations of destination countries; Furthermore, the interests of origin, transit and destination countries are equally important and should be taken into due account.

The issue of large movements of people in OSCE area should be addressed in comprehensive way. According to the UNHCR, by the end of 2016 there were 5,6 million refugees and over 3 million internally displaced persons within the OSCE area. In line with OSCE commitments starting from Helsinki, Budapest, Lisbon and Istanbul, our efforts to manage large movements of people in OSCE area should include also elaborating a comprehensive OSCE response to address the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons. The discussions on Hamburg Ministerial Council Decision 3/16 revealed overwhelming support to this. Ensuring adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons is stipulated in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

Thank you.