



Warsaw, 22 September 2016

Situation of refugees and IDPs in Nagorno-Karabakh

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the past, I have had the opportunity to present to the attention of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the situation with the rights of refugees and IDPs living in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Due to the non-constructive position of Azerbaijan, which has been trying by all means to isolate the NKR, this category of people is deprived of international assistance and protection. Such a discriminatory attitude towards Armenian refugees living in Nagorno-Karabakh is a direct violation of their fundamental rights, as well as OSCE commitments.

Unfortunately, over the past two years no positive changes have occurred in this regard. On the contrary, due to a new aggression of Azerbaijan against NKR in April this year, the situation with refugees and IDPs only worsened: several thousand residents of the village of Talish and other border settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh were forced to flee their homes. Talish residents cannot still return because of the danger to their lives. Those people who did not leave the limits of the NKR, also remained outside the attention of the international community. The only organization that provided assistance to displaced persons from Talish was the ICRC.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this connection, I wish to reiterate the recommendation on the need to ensure free access of specialized international organizations to refugees and displaced persons regardless of their residence and status of the country where they found refuge.

Thank you for attention.