Mr. Secretary-General,

On behalf of Armenia s Delegation, I would like to commend your leadership and thank you and your team for putting together this high-

We want

to express our appreciation to the distinguished panel and speakers for their contributions.

Armenia has constantly been committed to resolving issues that refugees and migrants face being a party to the Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the Protocol to the Status of Refugees of 1967, Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and a member of UNHCR Executive Committee. We have close to a quarter of a century of productive close cooperation with UNHCR and IOM, and highly value their work and projects around the world.

The phenomenon of migration is unfortunately not novelty for the Armenian people. We have seen migration and refugees as a result of deportation and the first genocide of the 20th century. At the end of the 20th century Armenian people living in Azerbaijan once again a victim of the policy of hatred, discrimination and became extermination. After the state-sponsored and organized massacres of population in Sumgait, Baku, Ki r ovabad and peacef ul el sewhere, Armenians had to flee from Azerbaijan, forcing hundreds of thousands of Armenians to quit their homes, becoming refugees and internally displaced persons, trying simply to stay alive. These racist actions of Azerbaijani government have made it crystal clear it has no political, legal, humanitarian and moral right to blame Armenia or any other country for its existing and non-existing problems involving refugees and IDPs. It is well-known and properly documented that it was Azerbaijan, which more than two decades ago, unleashed a fullagainst Nagorno-Karabakh, with an intention of totally scale war ext er minat i ng

It is our strong belief that primary responsibility for assisting refugees and IDPs, irrespective of the cause, rests with the national government. However, when the government is unwilling or unable to provide the necessary aid to its affected population, the international humanitarian community must step in. International community should also conderm all attempts of politicising the issues of refugees and migrants at national and international levels, denounce the policy and practice by the government of Azerbaijan to distort facts on refugees and IDPs by exaggerating of refugees from Azerbaijan and a few thousand displaced not so long ago from Iraq.

Around 16 thousand refugees from Syria have found second home now in Armenia and the Government is doing its utmost to accommodate them and alleviate their problems. In this connection the work of the UNHCR Armenia office has to be highly commended. It plays an immensely important role in alleviating the Syrian refugee crisis in Armenia. Every refugee arriving in Armenia from Syria, is basically guaranteed to have almost every right of the citizens of Armenia, including that of freedom of speech or freedom of movement. It is totally up to them where to live in Armenia or to leave Armenia and resettle in other countries. Apart from the 16 thousand refugees from Syria who have permanently settled down in Armenia, many thousands of Syrian refugees have moved from Armenia to other European countries, some families have resettled in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. According to international fact-finding missions their number does not exceed two dozens and their migration has absolutely no indication of governmentorganized resettlement.

Thank you.