

**Ninth session of the Working group of the Smuggling of Migrants, 27-28 June 2022**  
**Statement of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of Azerbaijan let me congratulate You on your reelection to the relevant position and express our gratitude to the Secretariat for the organization of the meeting and preparation of valuable documents for the discussions.

Taking into consideration regulations on time limit, I'd like to share the practice of Azerbaijan briefly regarding the activity on combating smuggling of migrants.

In Azerbaijan due to international practice we are implementing 4Ps strategy on combating transnational organized crimes, including smuggling of migrants. These are complex measures on prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership activities.

According to the agenda of the meeting partnership and prosecution activities on combating smuggling of migrants prioritized. Therefore, I'd like to note that cooperation with private sector is very important not only on prevention, but also on prosecution measures, in which generally topics of the event are somewhere related to each other.

In Azerbaijan the main addresses and actors on cooperation with the private sector are financial and technology entities and companies. However, considering the nature of the phenomenon and transborder characteristic, cooperation with private sector is obligatory not only in the country but also abroad with foreign private sector members.

Mr. Chair,

Related to other agenda item on investigation and prosecution of the smuggling of migrants crimes, let me inform You that after confirmation of Migration Code of Azerbaijan in 2013, migration policy making, including combating activity against smuggling of migrants was improved periodically, year by year, especially legislation on regulating the issues were established concerning Azerbaijan's obligations due to ratified international tools.

At the end of 2013 special article defining smuggling of migrants as a crime was established in Criminal Code of Azerbaijan, disposition and description of the article is same as it is defined in UNTOC relevant Protocol.

Despite the fact that generally criminal statistics are as the seen part of iceberg, I'd like to share smuggling of migrants statistics of Azerbaijan. But let me note that Azerbaijan generally is not suffering from high organization of illegal migration routes or criminal channels.

Starting from the establishment of legal base of criminal responsibility for the smuggling of migrants, 5 criminal cases were investigated, 3 of them were introduced to trial, 8

perpetrators were recruited to criminal responsibility, 3 organized criminal groups neutralized, still 2 criminal cases are under investigation.

Azerbaijan considers very important the partnership with civil society institutions, NGOs', academia, as well as with international organizations such as UNODC, UNHCR, IOM, ICMPD, INTERPOL and EUROPOL on combating against smuggling of migrants. The state authorities of Azerbaijan take into consideration all proposals of partners which are very useful and valuable.

Thank you for your attention!

Ilkin Gurbanov

Police Colonel, Division Chief at the Main Department on Passport, Registration and Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, Vienna