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Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**as delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,
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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UNOG in Geneva**

Panel discussion on responding to internal displacement: dialogue with states

**109th session of the IOM Council
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Mr. Director-General,

At the outset, my delegation thanks IOM for organizing this discussions and distinguished panel for their insightful contributions on the topic that unfortunately too often remains in the shadows of the global focus on refugees and migrants.

Although neither Global Compact on Refugees nor Global Compact on Migration reflects on IDP situations, we cannot ignore the simple fact that majority of the world's forcibly displaced are internally displaced population. Time has come to boldly recognize that internal displacement in many cases is a source for subsequent onward journeys. We have to be clear in our minds: without the right and timely protection for IDPs today, tomorrow they may become refugees, asylum seekers or migrants.

The references to IDPs in the 2030 Agenda, the goal set by the Agenda for Humanity to reduce internal displacement by at least 50 per cent by 2030 as well as the New York Declaration which, notes the need for reflection on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for IDPs and to prevent and reduce such displacement, certainly, are right vision but need still to be translated from words into actions. Alarming situation with internal displacement requires concerted action at all levels. The protracted nature of these situations should receive the attention it deserves.

While fully recognizing the primary responsibility of national authorities to protect and assist IDPs, nevertheless, Azerbaijan continues to believe that more is needed to elevate the IDP problem within the UN system. In this context, we support both IOM and UNHCR's important role in the broader humanitarian response to help and assist IDPs and commend them for their efforts to strengthen the response in situations of internal displacement. World Bank Group is doing a great job in terms of development perspective or inclusion of IDPs into national development agendas. We acknowledge the important role the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center has been playing in filling the knowledge gap on the global scale and patterns of internal displacement and keeping the plight of IDPs high in the radar of the international community.

We salute the intention by UN to initiate broader consultations on the humanitarian response towards IDPs next year as it is a good opportunity to put this pressing matter back in the spotlight and demonstrate that IDPs are not left behind.

It is our firm belief that while moving ahead with more comprehensive response in forced displacement situations, we must redouble our efforts to tackle its root causes.

Thank you.