

19th session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
7 March 2012
Remarks by Azerbaijan

Madame President,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan welcomes Mr. Chaloka Beyani, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and thanks him for introductory statement.

We commend the Special Rapporteur for placing special accent on the compliance with international law relating to IDPs. The Ministerial Communiqué adopted at the high-level conference of UNHCR at the end of last year notes that protracted displacement situations and their root causes should be addressed in line with international law. Taking into account that IDPs comprise two-thirds of those subject to displacement *we would like to ask Special Rapporteur what measures he intends to realize for the adoption of the comprehensive international document concerning the protection of rights and freedoms of IDPs.*

As mentioned in the report, it is with deep sorrow and regret that we emphasize the existence of about 27.5 million people in the world suffering from internal displacement in their own countries due to the armed conflicts of which about 1 million reside in our country as a result of the armed occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia.

Both the previous mandate holder Mr. Walter Kälin and High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Antonio Guterres during their visits to Azerbaijan in 2010 and last year respectively highly estimated the efforts of our Government concerning the improvement of livelihood conditions, ensuring the accommodation facilities, employment opportunities and the promotion of self-reliance for refugees and IDPs in Azerbaijan forcibly displaced since the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Mr. Special Rapporteur,

As you are fully aware and as highlighted in the follow-up visit report of Mr. Kälin the majority of IDPs in Azerbaijan is firmly disposed to return to their places of origin, in other words to the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other 7 adjacent regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan which are currently under occupation of armed forces of Armenia.

In conclusion, let me narrate and convey to you Mr. Special Rapporteur the painful and sad poetic words of very old IDP woman from Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan which indeed reflects the common mood of IDPs in Azerbaijan: I want to evaporate to be a cloud and I wish to be blown to my house to rain and remain on this land forever.

Thank you for your attention.