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REFUGEES, FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND MIGRATION
AND FOR CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CABINET OF
MINISTERS OF THE AZERBAIJANI REPUBLIC,
AT SESSION IV OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING
OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM**

Prague, 23–27 May 2005

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to thank the keynote speakers for the interesting material and extensive information provided.

I should like to support Mr. Busatti's view that information on receiving and sending countries has a vitally important role to play in promoting the future well-being of migrants.

In co-operation with the OSCE, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), some work is being done in this area in Azerbaijan.

In one of the districts near the border, a well-equipped temporary reception point for migrants and persons wishing to be granted refugee status has been set up. Special training courses have been organized for representatives of the State agencies involved in the procedure of determining refugee status.

For purposes of co-ordination and the efficient solution of problems in co-operation with the UNHCR and the IOM, a working group has been established, with participation by representatives of the ministries concerned.

Since the year 2000, a special clinic has been in operation where medical care is provided for migrants who have gone through the registration process. There are about 11,000 such migrants at the present time.

In the temporary reception points on the border, migrants are made aware, first and foremost, of their rights and obligations based on international and national legal provisions. For this purpose, special books have been prepared with the help of the OSCE and the IOM. The migrants receive relevant information about the country's economic situation, the rules

concerning the provision of temporary accommodation and the procedures for obtaining medical assistance, and also information on places where school-age children can receive education, free of charge, in secondary educational establishments.

Not only are the migrants given oral information but specially prepared forms in the migrant's mother tongue are also given out. In these forms, specific addresses are indicated where the migrants can seek help on particular questions.

Additional, fuller information is given to migrants in discussions with them and when they complete the necessary documents in the Department on the Determination of Refugee Status.

The UNHCR and the IOM provide migrants with information on receiving countries.

The necessary conditions are created by the State for migrants to be sent on to third countries in a safe and organized way. In the last six years alone, 1,200 persons wishing to apply for refugee status in the United States of America, Canada and European States were sent on to these countries in co-operation between the Government and the IOM.

It must be emphasized, however, that the provision of information to migrants still needs to be improved and additional measures taken.

To this end, we believe that consideration should be given to participation by the OSCE, together with other international organizations, in the solution of the following problems:

1. Assistance to sending countries in the establishment of modern reception points on the borders;
2. The organization of special training courses to improve the skills of the specialized personnel involved in the procedure for determining refugee status;
3. The creation of migration information centres for interested States.

At the first meeting of our Forum, Mrs. Rita Süßmuth, in her statement, expressed the view that the main task was not to prevent migration but to ensure that it could be managed in an optimal way.

That is certainly correct. But optimal migration management within the framework of one country cannot be effective and is practically impossible. To achieve this, all the participants in the migration process — sending, transit and receiving countries — must unite their efforts. Only then will it be possible for migration to benefit the migrants and the sending and receiving countries.

Thank you for your attention.