



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations**

**GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the letter of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context Reference: SPB/SHD/NF/GT dated 19 November 2019 has the honour to transmit herewith information on the living conditions created by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for over one million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs displaced from their native lands as a result of military aggression of neighboring state of Armenia towards the Republic of Azerbaijan that also resulted in the occupation of twenty percent of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Furthermore, the Permanent Mission hopes that the comments and suggestions made by the representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan during the consultations with the Special Rapporteur on "Guidelines on the implementation of the right to adequate housing" held on 11 November 2019 in Geneva will be duly considered by the Special Rapporteur. For ease of reference the summary of comments is also attached.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 3 pages



Geneva, 25 November 2019

Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

Geneva



## **Azerbaijani government builds residential complexes for IDPs**

As a result of Armenia's planned ethnic cleansing policy during 1988-1992, 250 thousand Azerbaijanis, who historically lived in that territory, were forced to leave their homeland and fled to Azerbaijan.

The Armenian armed forces started to implement the plan of forced displacement of Azerbaijani people from 126 residential areas inhabited by them of Nagorno-Karabakh, an integral part of Azerbaijan in 1988. Thus, starting from 1988, 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands - Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 adjacent regions were occupied, about 700 thousand Azerbaijanis from Nagorno-Karabakh, surrounding regions, as well as residential areas sharing border with Armenia or Nagorno-Karabakh were displaced from their permanent places of residence and temporarily settled in more than 1600 densely populated settlements in 62 cities and regions of the republic as a result of the military aggression of the Armenian armed forces.

Currently, there are 1,2 million refugees and IDPs in the country.

Initially, 700 thousand IDPs temporarily settled in more than 1600 densely populated settlements, including camp sites, Finnish-type settlements, public buildings, dormitories, underground pickaxes, education facilities, unfinished buildings, sanatoria, boarding houses, recreation centers, tourist bases, etc.

Foundation of the state care for refugees and IDPs, improvement of their social protection and housing and living conditions was laid by National Leader Heydar Aliyev and this policy was successfully continued by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev in 2003-2018, and he always defined addressing the social problems of citizens from this category as priority.

New residential complexes are being built for IDPs and relocation is being performed in accordance with the additions made in 2007 and 2011 to the "State Program on Improvement of Living Conditions and Increasing Employment of Refugees and IDPs" approved by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in 2004.

12 camp sites and the settlements consisting of railcars were completely demolished in 2007 and 16 Finnish-type settlements in 2016, and internally displaced families living under severe conditions were relocated to newly built settlements.

IDPs who are temporarily settled in buildings and structures on which an opinion was issued about them being in critical condition as certified by the Ministry of Emergency Situations, as well as those living under severe conditions for so long are provided with new residential areas in the first place. More than 270 families out of 432 families living in the basement were relocated to "Gobu Park" residential complex in 2018.

In general, 104 modern settlements and a residential complexes consisting of multi-storey buildings with a total area of 3,5 million square meters, supplied with all socio-technical infrastructure were built for refugees and internally displaced persons in 30 cities and regions of Azerbaijan with funds allocated from the State Oil Fund and other sources within the period from 2001 until the first half of 2019.



Thus, by the end of 2018, the housing conditions of 58.223 families or about 300 thousand refugees and IDPs were improved, of which 54,223 families or 272 thousand people (93%) are in the last 15 years. In 2018, 5.923 internally displaced families were provided with new apartments.

In 2018, the amount of funds spent for per an IDP was 937 Azerbaijani manats. Based on the amount of funds allocated to people from this category, Azerbaijan is at the forefront among the world countries.

In addition to improving the housing and living conditions of IDPs, the state provides them with single monthly allowances, and important work is being done to ensure their employment. The average monthly number of IDPs receiving single monthly allowance in the first quarter of 2019 was 496.436, of which 417.044 received 40 Azerbaijani manats allowance and 79.392 received 22 Azerbaijani manats. According to the Order dated on February 26, 2019 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan the amount of single monthly allowance paid to IDPs was increased by 50% from April 1, 2019 and reached 60 and 33 Azerbaijani manats respectively.

IDPs temporarily settled in different shelters believe that this conflict will be solved politically under the leadership of the head of state, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, and IDPs will return to their lands using their rights of returning to their homeland voluntarily and with dignity approved by international law.

**Talking points delivered by Mrs. Kamala Huseynli-Abishova**  
**During consultation with the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing**  
**11 November 2019**  
**Geneva**

Thank you, Madame Special Rapporteur, for preparing the guidelines on the implementation of the right to adequate housing with the aim to assist Member States in implementing the right to adequate housing.

Azerbaijan has recently become an attractive migrant destination and this topic is important for us too.

Given the wide range of coverage globally, we understand why some vulnerable groups such as women and migrants have been explicitly referred to in the draft guidelines and we support this.

Nonetheless, we believe that one important vulnerable group namely internally displaced persons has been omitted in these Guidelines and we believe that the guidelines will be incomplete if this group will not be covered.

Regardless of the fact that the issue of internally displaced persons is already covered by another Special Rapporteur, when we speak of the right to adequate housing we must cover such important and also vulnerable group as IDPs to avoid discrimination. Especially considering the fact that there are also other Special Rapporteurs covering some other vulnerable groups explicitly named in the draft Guidelines.

Today, you made reference to the knowledge and experience that you have gained through your country visits and the information provided in your country reports. As the matter of fact, the country reports prepared by you have been covering internally displaced persons. Thus, we believe that you may use your experience on this topic in preparation of your guidelines.

Obviously, not all countries in the World currently experience the problem of internal displacement. However, given the rising number of global conflicts in addition to already existing ones, as well as, the global climate change that has proved to cause displacement of persons, we believe that the Guidelines shall explicitly cover this group and be pro-active.