

Recommendations on the preparations for the formal launching of the “Almaty Process” as a full operational regional consultative forum for Central Asia on mixed migration and international protection;

Issued by the participants of the first meeting of National Coordinators on mixed migration in Central Asia, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 7 September 2012

Preamble

We, the National Coordinators on Mixed Migration, and delegations from the Central Asian Countries, reunited in the city of Almaty, together with Representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Turkey, to discuss the follow-up to the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration, held in Almaty on 15 and 16 March 2011;

Bearing in mind that the Central Asian region needs a reliable consultative forum to manage the complex mixed migration movements that affect the region and its neighbouring areas in particular;

Taking into consideration that the countries in the region would like to fulfil their international commitments to protect the people in need, particularly refugees, asylum-seekers, labour migrants, the stateless, victims of trafficking and others in need of international protection;

Recognizing that these commitments have to be also realised under situations where considerable threats are being tackled by States, particularly the spread of extremism of different nature, smuggling, terrorism and irregular migration;

Acknowledging that the issuance of concrete recommendations which falls in line with agreements reached in the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration to initiate a consultative regional process, hereinafter called the *Almaty Process*, and establish the appropriate regional and meaningful structure and set ups would help peace and prosperity of the region and improve protection regimes;

Considering that to address these complex and actual challenges a proper balance between technical expertise level, political decision level and general driving structures for the *Almaty Process* is needed;

Herewith, after comprehensive discussion and analysis of the realities, challenges and needs of the region in terms of mixed migration management;

We agree upon the following recommendations:

- 1 - Endorse the draft Regional Cooperation Framework
- 2 - Endorse the draft Regional Action Plan
- 3- Endorse the draft paper on *Almaty Process* and its internal structures (members, steering committee, secretariat, ministerial meetings, etc.)
- 4 - Agree that the following countries compose the initial members of the Process:
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan

Membership will also be open to Uzbekistan as well as to other concerned countries, especially those who attended the March 2011 *Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration* (The Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Turkey, Russian Federation, People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan).

- 5 – Suggest that an intergovernmental secretariat for the *Almaty Process* be established in Almaty;
- 6 - Request the Government of Kazakhstan, UNHCR and IOM to support the initial establishment of the secretariat
- 7 - Recommend that a second Ministerial Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration be organized in Kazakhstan later this year or early next year to:
 - a - Endorse the above mentioned steps;
 - b - Formally launch the *Almaty Process*;
 - c - Agree on the periodicity of the Ministerial meeting to ensure high level follow-up on RCF and implementation of RAP.

Each representative will take the present recommendations herein to their respective governments. Meanwhile, UNHCR, IOM and the Government of Kazakhstan will liaise with the National Coordinators of other as well as States present in this meeting for the preparation of the Second Ministerial Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration.

Almaty, September 7th 2012