

ICPD 30 Conference (Armenia)

High-level Plenary Session

Statement by Mr. Davit Khachatryan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank the organizers of this Conference, which marks a crucial moment in our collective commitment to advancing the sustainable development of the UNECE region. Today, 30 years after the first ICPD, we come together to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that remain.

The current priorities of the demographic policy of the Government of Armenia aim to establish family-friendly environment in the country, reduce the major death risk factors, promote active ageing, lessen motives leading to emigration and incentivize immigration of high-qualified professionals.

However, today there is a matter of utmost urgency and importance, the humanitarian consequences of the ethnic cleansing of the indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, which demand our collective attention and action.

For almost 10 months, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have been enduring full-fledged humanitarian crisis and starvation due to the illegal blockade by Azerbaijan, in violation of the international human rights law and international humanitarian law and the legally binding orders of the International Court of Justice. The blockade culminated in the large-scale aggression of Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh on 19 September, resulting in uprooting of the entire population from their ancestral land.

More than 100,000 refugees fled to Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian Government and society are now united to address the pressing humanitarian needs of our compatriots. Adequate shelter, healthcare, access to education are fundamental rights that must be provided to alleviate their suffering and enable them to rebuild their lives.

Strong and efficient response by the international community is crucial to address the humanitarian needs of the affected population and ensure durable solutions, advancing our commitment to the sustainable development of our region.

I thank you.