

Extract from the Minutes of the RA Government Session No. 28

21 July 2016

12. On Approving the “Concept Paper on Integration of Persons Recognized as Refugees and Granted Asylum in the Republic of Armenia as well as of Long-term Migrants”

1. Approve the “Concept Paper on Integration of Persons Recognized as Refugees and Granted Asylum in the Republic of Armenia as well as of Long-term Migrants” according to Annex.
2. Appoint the State Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia to develop, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Concept, and to submit it to the RA Government by September 1, 2017.

Prime Minister of
the Republic of Armenia

Hovik Abrahamyan

26 July, 2016

Yerevan

Concept Paper on Integration of Persons Recognized as Refugees and Granted Asylum in the Republic of Armenia as well as of Long-term Migrants

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Brief description

1. No special policy aimed at integration of foreign nationals has been implemented in Armenia so far, but taking into account the tendency of increase in immigration flows in Armenia, a policy concept paper has been developed aimed at integration of different groups of immigrants in Armenia.

2. The concept paper has the following structure:

Introduction

- I. Immigration situation in the Republic of Armenia
- II. Legal prerequisites for the integration of immigrants in the Republic of Armenia
- III. International expertise on integration of immigrants in terms of solving problems related to their integration in the Republic of Armenia
- IV. Target groups of immigrants in the Republic of Armenia and matters related to their integration
- V. Implementation mechanisms for integration components and their financial assessment

3. The **Introduction** represents the aim of the concept paper, and the need for developing an integration policy for persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia, as well as long-term migrants.

4. In the **first part** of the concept paper the terms ‘immigrant’ and ‘integration’ are explained, the immigration situation in the Republic of Armenia is presented, in terms of significant immigration flows in Armenia during the last century and the recent years as well. The analysis of the statistical data for the period of 2010-2015 is presented.

5. The **second part** of the concept paper refers to the legal prerequisites for the integration of immigrants in the Republic of Armenia, namely exercise of labor rights, family

- reunification, access to education, access to health services, involvement in the public political life and participation in the activities of the local governments, social security, granting of citizenship, protection against discrimination.
6. In the **third part** of the concept paper the international expertise on integration of immigrants is analyzed by means of representing the policy implemented in this field in different countries, as well as the key components of the programs and specific actions aimed at integration.
 7. The **forth part** of the concept paper reveals target groups of immigrants in the Republic of Armenia and matters related to their integration. For this purpose needs of each alien group holding residence permit in the Republic of Armenia are assessed according to the following four integration components/ types of assistance:
 - a) *proficiency in the language of the host country;*
 - b) *introduction to the socio-cultural life of the host country;*
 - c) *provision of temporary accommodation in the host country;*
 - d) *access to the labor market of the host country.*
 8. The **fifth part** of the concept paper is dedicated to implementation mechanisms for integration components and their financial assessment.

Introduction

9. For many countries, the task of integrating foreign nationals who reside their ranks high on the state agenda, which is no coincidence as this issue stems from the need to ensure social cohesion and stability and avoid the emergence of marginalized groups.
10. This issue is reflected in a number of international human rights instruments, such as the 1951 Refugee Convention, OSCE 1994 Budapest Summit Declaration, OSCE Ministerial Council Documents (March, 2007), etc.
11. Considering that from 1992 onwards the emigration has markedly prevailed in the outgoing migration flows from Armenia, in the past 20-25 years the issue of immigrant integration has never found its way into the political and administrative agenda, nor has it been covered in any concept paper on the special policy for immigrant integration.
12. However, in the period specified above Armenia had to confront huge immigration flows, namely 360,000 refugees displaced from Azerbaijan between 1988 in 1992, along with

some 60,000 of our compatriots arriving to Armenia from various territories of the former USSR including a large number of forcibly displaced persons arriving to Armenia over the past 10-12 years from various countries including 1,000 persons from Iraq, about 20,000 persons from Syria, and 200 persons from Ukraine.

13. Besides, a large number of foreign nationals have already taken up and continue to take up residence in Armenia on various grounds (family reunification, studies, employment, etc.) thus converting Armenia from an exclusively source country of emigrants into a host country for immigrants. The research conducted by international organizations attests to this tendency. Specifically, OSCE's report *Armenia, A Migrant Integration Policy Index Assessment* (2013) states that 'largely a country of emigration, Armenia is also slowly becoming a country of immigration and a country of transit for people from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries and the Middle East.'
14. The concept paper on immigrant integration policy in the Republic of Armenia aims to fill the gap in Armenia's migration policy by establishing target groups of immigrants and potential avenues for their integration based on relevant international best practices. The concept paper aims to specify potential integration objects i.e. based on certain criteria to select target groups of immigrants for the integration policy of upcoming years in the Republic of Armenia, as well as one of the following types of assistance to be provided to them or integration components:
 - a) *proficiency in the language of the host country;*
 - b) *introduction to the socio-cultural life of the host country;*
 - c) *provision of temporary accommodation in the host country;*
 - d) *access to the labor market of the host country.*
15. This concept paper has been developed based on para. 83 of the Governmental Decree No. 303-N of the Republic of Armenia dated February 27, 2014 on *Approving the Action Plan Resulting from the National Human Rights Protection Strategy* and the requirements established under para. 41 of the Governmental Decree No. 131-N dated January 14, 2016 of the Republic of Armenia on *the Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for 2016*, in accordance with which a draft governmental decree on *Approving the Concept Paper for the Integration Policy of the Persons Granted Asylum and Refugee Status in the Republic of Armenia As Well As Long-Term Migrants* will be submitted to the Armenian government for consideration.

I. Immigration situation in the Republic of Armenia

16. For the purposes of this concept paper, foreign nationals and stateless persons having established residence in the Republic of Armenia will be considered 'immigrants', and the term 'integration' will be understood to mean 'coordinated activities of state bodies and local governments, non-governmental and international organizations as well as the public at large to create favorable conditions and social ties needed by foreigners to live in the society of the host country.' The international organization for migration (IOM) defines integration as a process of accepting foreigners into the society individually or as a group. The specific requirements for being accepted into the society may vary substantially by country. The responsibility for integration does not rest with any specific group but with several stakeholders involved in the process: immigrants, governmental agencies, local governments, NGOs and the public at large of the host country.
17. Several waves of significant immigration flows can be identified in Armenia over the past hundred years, including:
- a) *The first* wave: as a consequence of the genocide, the spontaneous emigration between 1915 and 1922 of hundreds of thousands of Armenians to the present-day Armenia, which took the form of an organized repatriation starting from 1922 and going on through 1925-1926.
 - b) The *second* wave of intensive immigration started after the World War II bringing to the Soviet Armenia dozens of thousands of ethnic Armenian immigrants.
 - c) During the *next* wave between 1960s and 1970s, some 12-14 thousand ethnic Armenian immigrants moved to Armenia on yearly basis from the republics of the former Soviet Union (predominantly from Azerbaijan and Georgia) and several countries of the Middle East (Iran, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan).
 - d) The *fourth* massive wave of immigration to Armenia was related to the flaring up of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as a consequence of which Armenia had to receive some 360,000 refugees of Armenian descent from Azerbaijan and some 60,000 of our compatriots from other territories of the former USSR between 1988 and 1992.
18. Over the past 10-15 years, more or less significant immigration flows emerged after 2003, caused by the outbreak of active hostilities in Iraq. Armenia received over 1,000 persons from Iraq, all of whom were forcibly displaced (predominantly of Armenian descent) and were eventually granted a refugee status in Armenia.

19. From 2012 onwards, the displaced persons from Syria started to prevail in the incoming immigration flows to Armenia. To this day, Armenia has given refuge to over 20,000 persons who were forced to abandon their homes in Syria.
20. Since 2014, over 200 Ukrainian citizens have sought asylum in Armenia due to the escalating situation in the southern regions of the Ukraine.
21. During the recent years, however, the incoming immigration flows to Armenia have not been limited to displaced persons only. From 2010 onwards, parallel to this group, over 34,000 foreigners from 128 countries of the world were granted permanent, temporary or special resident status under the Armenian legislation; of which 11.4% were granted permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia, 45.5% were granted temporary resident status, and another 43% were granted special resident status. It must be noted that males prevail in the subgroup of permanent and temporary residence permit holders and comprise 61% of their total number (63.4% of permanent residence permit holders and 60% of temporary residence permit holders respectively).
22. The vast majority of the total number of aliens granted permanent or temporary resident status over the past five to six years in the Republic of Armenia are foreign nationals of Armenian ethnicity, while non-Armenians comprise as little as 4.2%. The total number of immigrants arriving to Armenia for various reasons can be divided into subgroups in the proportions below:
 - a) Immigrants who come to Armenia **for education purposes** comprise some 41%. This subgroup encompasses immigrants from 86 source countries with Iran and India holding the undisputed top positions on the list. The number of foreigners granted a resident status for education purposes in the Republic of Armenia totaled 13,084 persons between 2010 and 2015.
 - b) Immigrants arriving **for family reunification purposes** comprise 30.1%. This subgroup encompasses immigrants from over 80 source countries with Russian Federation holding the undisputed top position on the list. The number of foreigners granted temporary and permanent resident status for family reunification purposes in the Republic of Armenia totaled 6,599 persons between 2010 and 2015.
 - c) Immigrants arriving **for employment purposes** comprise 23.7%. This subgroup encompasses immigrants from 100 source countries with Iran holding the undisputed top position on the list. The number of foreigners granted temporary and permanent resident status for employment purposes in the Republic of Armenia totaled 5,904 persons between 2010 and 2015.

- d) Immigrants arriving **for business purposes** comprise 0.17%. In this small subgroup of immigrants, Iran holds the undisputed leadership among 12 source countries on the list. The number of foreigners granted temporary and permanent resident status for business purposes in the Republic of Armenia totaled 83 persons between 2010 and 2015.
23. Iran, Syria and the USA occupy the top ranks on the list of some 70 source countries of 15,781 immigrants who were granted special resident status in the Republic of Armenia between 2011 and 2015. Traditionally, the three countries listed above boast large Armenian communities and account for 68% of those granted special resident status in the Republic of Armenia.
24. As of January 1, 2016, the statistics on foreign nationals holding a valid resident status in the Republic of Armenia is as follows:
- a) 3,736 persons hold a **valid temporary resident status**, including 663 persons for family reunification purposes, 1,705 persons for education purposes, 1,277 persons for employment purposes and 50 persons on the grounds of their Armenian ethnicity.
 - b) 4,709 persons hold a **valid permanent resident status**, of whom 3,781 persons based on their continued residence for at least three years in the Republic of Armenia, 21 persons for business purposes and 907 persons on the grounds of their Armenian ethnicity.
 - c) 8,705 persons hold a **valid special resident status**, of whom 53 persons for pursuing business or cultural activities and 8,652 persons on the grounds of their Armenian ethnicity.

II Legal prerequisites for the integration of immigrants in the Republic of Armenia

25. At least two aspects must be taken into account when dealing with the integration of immigrants:
- 1) legal aspect of the integration revealing on the legislative level the rights and duties reserved for the citizens of the host country, i.e. of the Republic of Armenia in relation to immigrants;
 - 2) factual aspect of integration which demonstrates the extent of integration of immigrants into various walks of social life including the extent to which their established rights and duties can be exercised.

26. To give a full picture of the legal prerequisites needed for the integration of aliens, it is essential to provide a brief analysis of Armenia's situation with the statutory regulation of the following aspects or areas:

- a) Exercise and accessibility of labor rights;
- b) Family reunification;
- c) Access to education;
- d) Access to health services;
- e) Involvement in the public political life and participation in the activities of the local governments;
- f) Residency, including social security;
- g) Granting of citizenship;
- h) Protection against discrimination.

Exercise and accessibility of foreigners' labor rights in the Republic of Armenia

27. *The Labor Code of the Republic of Armenia* stipulates the labor rights and freedoms of natural persons i.e. Armenian citizens, foreign nationals, stateless persons, and provides relevant state guarantees in this respect. With the exception of certain (military and law enforcement personnel, etc.) categories, the Armenian legislation stipulates equal terms of labor for its own citizens and foreign nationals alike.

28. Also, the relationships pertaining to the labor of foreign nationals are regulated by the *Armenian Law on Foreigners*, according to which aliens are entitled to dispose freely of their professional skills, choose the type of profession and occupation they engage in, and pursue economic activities which are not expressly prohibited by the laws of Armenia and are in compliance with the limitations imposed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. Although the Armenian legislation stipulates that a work permit must be obtained (with a few exceptions), in practice, however, procedures required for the implementation of this provision are still at the development stage.

29. The Armenian *Law on Foreigners* stipulates that the marriage to an Armenian citizen or a foreign national residing in Armenia on a legitimate basis can serve as one of the grounds for granting a temporary resident status, which enables both spouses to freely access the Armenian labor market, i.e. to seek employment without a work permit.

30. Most countries establish preferential terms of access to the labor market for highly qualified workers. Such preferences are set forth in various international legal instruments;

Armenia, too, provides preferential terms for this category of persons by waiving the requirement of a work permit for highly qualified workers.

31. At the same time, no public agency is tasked with the duty to provide information on the terms of immigration, on how to benefit from the opportunities offered on the labor market, how to exercise labor rights, how to access the labor market or what efforts are made towards counteracting the discrimination, etc.
32. One of the preconditions for the integration of work migrants, which also lacks legislative regulation, centers about how the Armenian language courses are to be organized considering that the language proficiency is a key integration tool for immigrants and covers professional integration.

Exercise and accessibility of foreigners' right to family reunification in the Republic of Armenia

33. The right of a person to marriage and family life, which ranks among fundamental human rights under established international law instruments, is reflected in the national legislation of the Republic of Armenia. Specifically, the Armenian *Law on Foreigners* lists family reunification as one of the grounds for granting entry visas to the Republic of Armenia.
34. Foreign nationals and Armenian citizens alike hold equal rights in the matters pertaining to marriage, divorce and family life. However, restrictions do apply to the right of aliens to adopt children: foreign nationals and stateless persons are allowed to adopt children solely where it is impossible to place them in foster care with a family of Armenian citizens permanently residing on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, or if the children cannot be adopted by their relatives.
35. Foreign nationals and stateless persons who stay on the territory of the Republic of Armenia contract marriages in the manner prescribed under the Armenian legislation, while marriages legalized in consular missions of foreign states in the Republic of Armenia are deemed valid by the principles of reciprocity.
36. The dissolution of marriage is dealt with in a similar fashion. The dissolution of a marriage contracted by and between Armenian citizens and foreign nationals or stateless persons on the territory of the Republic of Armenia is effected in the manner prescribed under the Armenian legislation. The dissolution of marriages by and between Armenian nationals or Armenian nationals and foreign nationals or stateless persons as well as foreign nationals, which is effected outside the territory of the Republic of Armenia in compliance with the

legislation of the state, in which it was effected is deemed valid under the Armenian legislation, if duly legalized by a consular service.

37. The family reunification of foreigners is not specifically regulated under the Armenian legislation with the exception of refugees and asylum-seekers who are regulated by the Armenian *Law on Refugees and Asylum*, according to which refugees who are granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia are entitled to reunification with their family members on the territory of the Republic of Armenia in a manner prescribed under the law.

The regulation of the foreigners' right to access educational system in the Republic of Armenia

38. Under the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, all persons (including immigrants, irrespective of their ethnicity, race, sex, language, religion and political or other views) have right to education. It must be noted that basic general education is compulsory with a few exceptions prescribed under the law, and the secondary education in public educational institutions is offered free of charge.
39. The Armenian laws on preschool education and on general education stipulate no special clause on foreigners, who are entitled to receive education on equal terms with the Armenian nationals. It must be noted that the Armenian *Law on Tertiary and Postgraduate Education* precludes charging tuition fees in the amount higher than applied to the citizens of the Republic of Armenia who pursue their studies in the same educational institution on identical terms from recognized refugees and asylum seekers of Armenian descent, and foreign nationals of Armenian ethnicity, if an emergency situation persists in their countries of permanent residence threatening the life or health of their citizens.
40. There is an essential gap in the Armenian legislation concerning educational integration (which comes forward as one of the most important conditions for social and cultural integration), namely no law or legal act regulates the issue of how the Armenian language courses for foreigners must be organized. Besides, while the education in Armenia is claimed to be one of the grounds for obtaining a legitimate resident status in our country, yet, the terms and criteria for obtaining any such permit have not been established clearly. Moreover, the access to the labor market for foreign students lacks legislative regulation, which is one of the essential requirements for integration.

The regulation of the foreigners' right to access health care in the Republic of Armenia

41. Under the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, all persons, including foreigners, have right to receive medical assistance and health services in a manner prescribed by the law.

The Constitution also defines that all persons, including foreigners, have right to free of charge basic medical services, the list and the procedure of provision of which are stipulated by the law.

42. This procedure established for refugees and asylum seekers in the Republic of Armenia is stipulated by Annex 1 of the Decree 420-N of the Government of the Republic of Armenia as of 30 March 2006, according to which persons granted refugee or asylum seeker status in the Republic of Armenia receive free-of-charge primary health-care services ensured by the State under the framework of the State order in line with the procedure prescribed by the Decree.

Legal regulation of the involvement in public political life and participation in the local governments in the Republic of Armenia

43. In the Republic of Armenia, the involvement of aliens in the public political life and their participation in the local governments is regulated in part only. Particularly, *the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia* stipulates voting rights in the local government elections for persons who do not hold the Armenian citizenship, if they have been entered into the communal registry for at least six months prior to the day of voting.
44. While the *Law on Local Governments* contains no provision on aliens, the *Law on Political Parties* of the Republic of Armenia precludes a political party status for any association, the bylaws of which authorize the membership of foreign citizens, stateless persons and foreign or international organizations with the exception of situations provided under the same law. According to the same law, a political party is not allowed to accept donations from foreign states, foreign nationals or legal persons, including corporate entities with a foreign equity, if the stocks, shares or interest in the authorized capital (through the issue of shares or interest) of the corporate entity in question held by a foreign partner are in excess of 30%. It must be noted, though, that the said law provides no exceptions for aliens who reside in the Republic of Armenia including those with a valid residence status.

Legal regulation pertaining to the exercise of the right to residence in the Republic of Armenia

45. The entire set of legal regulations related to the exercise of the right to residence is established under the Armenian *Law on Foreigners* and a series of sub-legislative acts adopted to enforce it. Thus, the law specifies three types of residence statuses granted to foreigners in the Republic of Armenia, along with the grounds and terms for granting any such residence status, the procedure for filing requests for it, the registration procedure for

foreigners holding a residence status, as well as reasons for denying any such residence status.

46. The Armenian *Law on Refugees and Asylum* also regulates the legal framework for asylum-seekers and persons granted asylum and refugee status who constitute another group of foreigners with residence rights. The said law stipulates the criteria for considering a person an asylum seeker and a refugee, along with the asylum claim procedure, the procedure for granting asylum in case of a massive inflow, grounds for excluding from refugee status and denying asylum, etc.
47. The Armenian legislation stipulates statutory regulation for persons in vulnerable situations who do not hold a legal residence status in the Republic of Armenia. Thus, the Armenian *Law on Identification and Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking and Exploitation* stipulates a reflection period for victims of human trafficking and exploitation by offering the potential victim, the victim or a special category victim of trafficking or exploitation the right and opportunity to stay on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, to disengage from the influence of their traffickers or exploiters, to recuperate from the consequences of their physical injuries as well as to make sober and well-weighted decisions, irrespective of legitimacy of their residence status. The said law prohibits the deportation of aliens during their reflection period and precludes from sanctioning them for their residence in the Republic of Armenia without either a valid visa or resident status or using invalid documents during the period in question.

The state of legal regulation of the relationships pertaining to granting foreigners the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

48. The Armenian *Law on Citizenship* stipulates the grounds and the procedure for obtaining the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia by stateless persons, persons of unknown citizenship, or children born in the Republic of Armenia to parents who are unable to pass their citizenships to them.
49. According to the law, any legally capable person above 18 years of age who resides (stays) in a foreign state or resides (stays) in the Republic of Armenia on legitimate grounds is entitled to apply for the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia, if he/she simultaneously meets the following requirements: permanent residence in the Republic of Armenia for the past three years in full compliance with the law, proficiency in the Armenian language and familiarity with the Armenian Constitution. Also, the law establishes when the Armenian citizenship may be granted without compliance with the three requirements listed above.

50. The person applying for the Armenian citizenship is required to submit his/her application in person to the authorized body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The Armenian citizenship is granted by the order of the President of the Republic of Armenia to such effect. The application for the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is denied, if the actions of the person in question are detrimental to the state and public security, public order, public health and morality, rights and freedoms, as well as to the dignity and reputation of other people. The application for the Armenian citizenship may be denied without explanation.

The state of legal regulation pertaining to securing the protection against discrimination of aliens in the Republic of Armenia

51. The Armenian legislation does not contain any discriminatory provision on the exercise of fundamental human rights by aliens. For instance, aliens may seek remedy for their violated rights in respect of any claim in a court of law for civil, criminal and administrative cases on equal footing with the Armenian citizens. It is quite a different matter that due to the lacking proficiency in the state language, the exercise of this right is fraught with certain difficulties. Specifically, in accordance with the Armenian *Code of Civil Procedure*, persons involved in the process are entitled to appear before a court of law and make their deposition in the language of their preference, provided the Armenian translation of the same is furnished, or if the person in question agrees to pay the cost of retaining an interpreter to be assigned by the court. This means that if an aliens appears before a court of law to make a deposition in his/her mother tongue, he/she bears the duty of securing translation/interpretation.

52. A similar provision is contained in the Armenian *Code of Administrative Procedure*, namely a party, its proxy, or an expert assigned or a witness summoned by the party's initiative is entitled to appear before the court and make his/her deposition in the language of his/her preference, if the party in question provides the Armenian translation thereof. The judge, the parties to the trial, witnesses, experts and proxies are not entitled to assume the functions of an interpreter, even if they have the proficiency in the language required for interpretation.

53. Only administrative hearings allow retaining an interpreter at the public cost, solely if a foreign party to the trial can prove the lack of sufficient funds to secure an interpretation for a fee.

54. In accordance with the Armenian *Code of Criminal Procedure* and by the decision of the body conducting the criminal investigation, the parties to the trial lacking proficiency of the language, in which the trial is conducted are given the opportunity to exercise their

rights established under the *Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Armenia* through an interpreter.

55. In this respect, information to foreigners on the judicial and extrajudicial protection of their rights is somehow lacking, particularly in a language they can understand.

This comes to say that while protection (including judicial remedies) is established under the standing Armenian legislation, in practice it can be unattainable or fail to be exercised due to a lacking proficiency in the Armenian language or absence of funds to retain a translator/interpreter.

56. In summary, the following can be stated:

- a) No public agency is tasked with the duty to provide information on terms of immigration, on how to benefit from the opportunities offered on the labor market, how to exercise labor rights, how to access the social security or what efforts are made to counteract discrimination, etc.;
- b) There is an essential gap in the Armenian legislation concerning educational integration (which comes forward as one of the most important conditions for social and cultural integration), namely no law or legal act regulates the issue of how the Armenian language courses for foreigners must be organized. Besides, while the education in Armenia is claimed to be one of the grounds for obtaining a legitimate resident status in our country, yet, the terms and criteria for obtaining any such permit have not been established clearly;
- c) In the Republic of Armenia, the involvement of aliens in the public political life and their participation in the local governments is regulated in part only;
- d) The entire set of legal regulations related to the exercise of the right to residence is established; furthermore, there is a special regulation for persons in vulnerable situations without a legitimate residence status;
- e) The entire set of regulations for granting aliens citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is available;
- f) In the Republic of Armenia, aliens are protected from discrimination, however, information provision to them on the judicial and extrajudicial protection of their rights is somehow lacking, particularly in a language they can understand.

57. It must be specified that *a Law on Introducing Changes and Amendments in the Law on Refugees and Asylum of the Republic of Armenia*, adopted on 16 December 2015, imposes an obligation on the state to take measures towards the social integration of specific groups of foreigners, namely those granted a refugee status in the Republic of Armenia. These measures include language and cultural orientation training, information on daily life, as well as involvement in the public life, etc.

III International expertise on integration of immigrants in terms of solving problems related to their integration in the Republic of Armenia

58. Based on the analysis of immigrant integration systems of various countries, you can find below a brief outline of the key components and specific integration actions established under the relevant policies and programs.

59. The study of the international expertise reveals two major approaches to providing assistance: a **targeted approach** where immigrants are viewed as a separate social group and an **inclusive approach** where the problems of immigrants are solved as part of the general policies and programs being pursued.

60. Only few countries covered in the study provide the integration assistance solely by giving immigrants access to available services. A similar approach is employed in Spain, Ireland and Belgium (Wallonia). Upon recognition of the refugee status, this approach secures the access to the services available to the citizens of the integration countries.

61. The targeted approach of assisting immigrants is mostly adopted in the countries that follow fixed-term policies on immigrant integration assistance. It must be noted that this term differs by country: in France the term is established for one year, in Norway for two years, in Denmark for three years, etc. In some way or other, such assistance is provided in Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and to some extent in Switzerland. It is characteristic for the countries that employ targeted approach to have their integration programs reflected in individual integration plans.

62. An individual integration plan is formalized by and between the relevant public authority and the person in question covering a fixed-term targeted assistance. Integration plans can be categorized into three main groups:

- a) **Standard:** This plan establishes the duties reserved for immigrants during their integration process, as well as a series of measures offered by the state. For instance, similar standard plans are employed in France.
- b) **Based on the individual assessment of the immigrant's needs:** In the countries covered in the study, such plans are employed in Belgium (Flanders), Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and England. A plan is drafted based on an interview with a social worker establishing the objectives to be attained by the immigrant in question. The authorities, mostly on the local level, assist immigrants in different ways helping them attain their objectives established under the plans. While such plans may vary depending on the immigrant, the language course usually forms a compulsory component of the plan.
- c) **Formalized in integration centers:** Austria employs this type of plans, which are formalized in integration centers while refugees reside there, given that establishing a plan is compulsory requirement for accommodation in an integration center. The plan *inter alia* establishes that the person in question is willing to integrate, take active part in language training and look for employment. In the integration center, immigrants receive assistance with language training, social services and search for employment.

Integration plans by countries

63. Individual integration plans may have varying implementation timelines, optional or mandatory, paid or free participation in their programs depending on the country.

- 1) In **France**, individual integration plans established with a specific immigrant have become compulsory since 2007 and form an essential part of the French integration system. Such plans are established for a period of one year extendable for another year. These plans primarily serve to offer immigrants language training in French with insight into socio-cultural life of France, its social and public structure.
- 2) In **Belgium (Flanders)**, the implementation of integration plans starts almost upon arrival; however, non-compliance with the conditions set forth therein is punishable by specific fines: social accommodation, for instance, can be later restricted to those who have made considerable progress in their language training. Besides, recently arrived immigrants are granted work permits solely upon completion of the language training, civil orientation and introduction to the labor market. Exception is made only for refugees who are entitled to work prior to the completion of their training. Similar to France, here the integration plan is expected to be completed within one year.

- 3) In **Denmark**, from 2006 onwards it is incumbent upon immigrants entering the country to sign the Declaration on Integration into Danish Society and Active Citizenship along with an integration plan. The Declaration contains requirements for upholding and complying with democratic values as well as obligations to learn the Danish and gain knowledge about the Danish society. In case of refugees, the integration plan covers a period of three years and is to be signed by and between the local government and the refugee within one month upon receipt of a refugee status. The integration plan undergoes continued revision and may be amended to reflect a change of circumstances.
- 4) In **the Netherlands**, the integration measures commence prior to the arrival to the country: passing an integration test is a precondition for obtaining a temporary residence permit. Obtaining permanent residency requires a test to demonstrate proficiency in Dutch and knowledge of the country's culture. After assigning the newly arrived to any specific district, and if the person in question needs involvement in integration measures, the local government develops an integration program tailored to the beneficiary's needs, after which a contract is signed with the immigrant for accomplishment of the program by making it incumbent upon the immigrant to submit semiannual progress reports on integration. Newly arrived immigrants must pay a specific fee for their participation in the integration program, while refugees can participate free of charge.
- 5) In **Norway**, an integration program is mandatory for newly arrived immigrants. As part of this program, an individual plan is developed with the main focus on basic skills training to be offered within three months upon receipt of the resident status. The integration plan is developed to cover a period of two years, but can be extended for another year, if necessary. Refugees are given a so-called *introductory allowance* to enable them to participate in the integration program.
- 6) In **the United Kingdom**, an individual integration plan is drafted for refugees or persons seeking protection for humanitarian reasons within 28 days upon receipt of the resident status offering them various services for a period of one year. A social worker is assigned to the person subject to integration to assist him/her with the implementation of the plan; it is also incumbent upon such social worker to review the plan on regular basis. Language training which is incorporated in the integration plan is offered free of charge only where the refugee in question has no employment or is on allowance.
- 7) In **Finland**, an integration plan is not a mandatory requirement, as it may be signed only when the immigrant registers for social assistance. In this case, an 18-week plan is established based on his/her needs.

- 8) In **Spain** and **Portugal**, immigrants are offered the entire set of integration services, if they are holders of a work contract or parents to a minor child. Besides, these states have laid down compulsory legislative requirements for free healthcare and basic education for immigrants.
- 9) Among **Eastern Asian countries**, the example of **South Korea** is of interest where foreign spouses of Korean citizens are offered social, educational and cultural services including language training. Educational benefits are extended to the children of immigrants, while refugees are entitled to benefit from legal assistance and healthcare services as well as to attend language training. Refugees arriving from North Korea enjoy special approach and are allocated in temporary accommodation centers where they can study the history and culture of South Korea, obtain computer literacy, learn cooking, etc. Those who have followed preliminary training in such centers are given scholarships and assistance to purchase housing. 'Hi Korea' website (www.hikorea.go.kr) offers aliens various types of information to solve problems related to the immigration to Korea.
- 10) In **CIS countries**, immigration integration system has been introduced in **Moldova** based on the *Law on Integration of Foreigners* adopted in 2012. As part of the Moldova's integration policy, services are offered for socio-cultural adaptation, training in the state language, along with information and counseling on how to access to the labor market, healthcare and social security systems, professional orientation and business integration. Aliens, who have a low self-sufficiency potential (unaccompanied children, single parents with children, families with three or more children to their care, disabled persons and persons of retirement age) for objective reasons as well as citizens of Moldova enjoy the right to equal and fair assistance. Refugees and persons granted political asylum can benefit from all of the above integration measures.
64. The analysis of integration programs and individual plans employed in various countries indicates that the key components of such plans include language training, civil orientation, assistance with access to labor market and provision of temporary accommodation. Incidentally, this latter type of assistance applies to refugees only of all immigrant groups.

Funding mechanisms for integration programs

65. The study indicates that the funding of immigration programs in the European countries comes from the state budget with parallel allocations from the European Union.
66. For instance, relevant foundations of the European Union directly fund immigrant integration programs run by Spanish civil society organizations. In Denmark, integration

initiatives receive funding based on the principle of joint financing by the state and local governments. The state reimburses 75% of the costs incurred by local governments for immigrant integration purposes and covers such expenses in their entirety, if these relate to immigrants who are minor of age or have limited capacity.

67. In the Netherlands and Belgium, the funding for integration measures centers around special foundations. In Belgium, a special foundation has been functioning since 1991 and bears the name of *Immigration Policy Foundation* dealing with the funding of immigration policy programs. At the same time, a series of integration programs receive funding from the EU budget including for social and professional integration measures for immigrants recently arrived to Belgium.
68. In France, public funding for immigrant integration is allocated in two formats: through grants issued by non-governmental organizations active in the field of immigration integration and following the principle of shared expenses between regional and communal authorities for immigrant integration measures on the local level, again under the condition of providing grants to local non-governmental organizations.

IV Target groups of immigrants in the Republic of Armenia and matters related to their integration

69. The international expertise on immigrant integration indicates that solving issues related to the integration of aliens calls for a series of actions in different directions. In particular, integration implies assistance in the following matters:
- a) proficiency in the language of the host country;
 - b) introduction to the sociocultural life of the host country;
 - c) provision of temporary accommodation in the host country;
 - d) access to the labor market of the host country.
70. With different groups of immigrants, the need for assistance in the above aspects takes various forms. One group may demonstrate a critical need for accommodation, while another group may give priority to the assistance with language proficiency.
71. In Armenia, a targeted approach drawing on international expertise is employed in three of the four aspects listed above, which implies development and implementation of individual programs for the Armenian language proficiency, civil orientation and provision of temporary accommodation. The fourth component of integration i.e. assistance with access to labor market may be realized through inclusive approach: immigrants in need of

this component may be referred to and become involved in the existing programs of relevance. This is an entirely viable option considering the fact that the Armenian legislation does not contain provisions in conflict with such approach.

72. To implement the above integration processes, it is necessary to specify potential integration targets i.e. to select target groups of immigrants in the Republic of Armenia including types of assistance or integration components to be provided using certain criteria of the integration policy for upcoming years.
73. To accomplish this, the needs of each alien group holding residence permits in the Republic of Armenia (or which is equivalent: all statutory grounds which authorize a residence status under the law) will be assessed according to the four integration components listed above/types of assistance.
74. In this context, the persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia under the Armenian *Law on Refugees and Asylum* represent the first group to target. The past interaction with these persons indicates that foreigners from various conflict zones (Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, etc.) seeking asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia experience quite critical problems related to accommodation. It must be noted that this problem applies to both non-Armenians and ethnic Armenians who comprise the majority in the group of recognized refugees. Also, solving the language problem is essential for this group of immigrants, but it is more pronounced for non-Armenian refugees and to a lesser extent for ethnic Armenians. Civil orientation training is equally important for a full integration as it gives immigrants an opportunity to gain extensive knowledge of the Armenian state, its governance system, cultural values, customs and other matters.
75. **Hence, persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia represent one of the key target groups of the integration policy. From the perspective of their integration, the solution to housing problem takes utmost importance for their temporary residency in Armenia along with helping them in such matters as the Armenian language proficiency and civil orientation.**
76. Foreign nationals and stateless persons with a resident status in the Republic of Armenia represent another group of migrants residing in Armenia. In accordance with the Armenian *Law on Foreign Citizens*, such persons must hold one of the following three statuses: temporary, permanent or special.
77. Temporary resident status can be given to any alien who is able to demonstrate the existence of the circumstances given below to justify his/her stay on the territory of the Republic of Armenia for a period of one year and more.

- a) studies, or
 - b) availability of a work permit, or
 - c) being the spouse, parent or child of a foreigner holding a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia, or
 - d) being the spouse or close family member (parent, child, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather or a grandchild) of an Armenian national or a foreigner with a permanent or special resident status in the Republic of Armenia, or
 - e) pursuing entrepreneurial activities;
 - f) Armenian ethnicity.
78. Prior to assessing the needs of aliens to be granted a temporary resident status on one of the six grounds listed above, it is necessary to consider in terms of various integration components the fact that a temporary resident status is granted for a period of under one year and is extendable for another year at each successive interval. Consequently, foreigners with a temporary resident status who have extended their residency period at least once must be viewed as a target group for the integration policy.
79. Foreigners with a temporary resident status for educational purposes in Armenia may not be viewed as a target group for integration assistance, since pursuing their studies in Armenia is the result of their voluntary decision, prior to which a person is expected to evaluate potential problems (tuition fees, housing, language barrier, etc.) in the country of his/her studies as well as his/her personal capacity to overcome such problems. The reasons given above explain why no country covered in the study views foreigners who reside there for educational purposes as a target group for integration.
80. The same reasons also apply to aliens who receive residency rights in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of their professional activities. This equally applies to both aliens working based on a work permit (work permit issuing procedure is expected to be put in place in the near future) and those working under the terms of international agreements adhered to by the Republic of Armenia such as nationals of the Eurasian Economic Union member states and their family members, who may live and work in Armenia based on a work contract.
81. This comes to say that even if, after establishing their residence in the Republic of Armenia, these persons encounter acute needs related to the four components listed above, it would be still up to them to take care of such needs. In their case, assistance may be provided for a fee.

82. The next ground for granting foreigners a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia relates to being the spouse, parent or child of a foreigner holding a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia. Of all integration components listed above, this group of immigrants may encounter relatively acute needs related to the Armenian language courses and civil orientation training.
83. In terms of integration needs, the situation is identical with foreign nationals who are granted temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia on the grounds of being the spouse or close family member (parent, child, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather or a grandchild) of an Armenian citizen or a foreign national with a permanent or special residence status in the Republic of Armenia.
84. As far as aliens granted temporary resident status on the ground of pursuing entrepreneurial activities are concerned, it is obvious that they may not be viewed as a target group to receive assistance with any of the four integration components listed above. Should they encounter similar problems, they will be well in position to solve them on their own.
85. The last ground established under the Armenian *Law on Foreigners* allows aliens to obtain a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia based on their Armenian ethnicity. Past interaction with this group gives ample reasons to believe that only few individual members of this group of immigrants may experience minor problems related to the Armenian language proficiency and moderate needs related to civil orientation training.
86. **Summarizing the needs analysis for various groups of aliens granted temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the four components of integration, it might be claimed that the following groups can be regarded as those to be targeted by the integration policy:**
- a) **Spouses, parents or children of an alien holding a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia;**
 - b) **Spouses or close family members (parent, child, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather or a grandchild) of an Armenian citizen or a foreign national with a permanent or special residence status in the Republic of Armenia;**
 - c) **Ethnic Armenians;**
- The above listed groups encounter problems related to the language proficiency and civil orientation.

87. The other status required for taking up residence in the Republic of Armenia is the permanent resident status that an alien is granted, if he/she:
- a) can demonstrate the fact of being the spouse or close family member (parent, child, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather or a grandchild) of an Armenian citizen or a foreign national with a permanent or special resident status in the Republic of Armenia, possession of housing and livelihood in the Republic of Armenia, as well as having resided for at least three years in the Republic of Armenia in a manner prescribed by the law prior to applying for the permanent resident status; or
 - b) is of Armenian ethnicity or pursues entrepreneurial activities in the Republic of Armenia.
88. In order to apply for permanent resident status on the first of the above listed grounds, the foreign national must possess housing and livelihood in Armenia, thus indicating the absence of integration problems related to accommodation and occupation. The other requirement is that the person in question must have resided for at least three years in Armenia, which is a sufficient period to overcome both language proficiency and orientation related problems, if any. In other words, this group of immigrants is free from the need to overcome problems related to the language proficiency and civil orientation.
89. All of the above equally applies to those who have been granted permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of pursuing entrepreneurial activities.
90. The remaining share goes to the aliens who are granted a permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of their Armenian ethnicity, and only some of them may experience minor needs in terms of the Armenian language proficiency.
91. The next status given to aliens for residence purposes in the Republic of Armenia is the special resident status granted on the grounds of the Armenian ethnicity. The special resident status may also be granted to other aliens who pursue economic or cultural activities in the Republic of Armenia.
92. Over the past five years, 15,781 foreign nationals have been granted a special resident status in the Republic of Armenia with some 68% of whom are citizens of Iran, Syria and the United States. As of January 1, 2016, 8,705 persons hold a valid special resident status, of whom 53 persons do so for pursuing economic or cultural activities, and 8,652 persons on the grounds of their Armenian ethnicity.

93. According to our observations, persons granted residence status on the ground of their Armenian ethnicity, as a rule, are self-sufficient, and if facing any integration related problems, can deal with them on their own. As far as foreign nationals granted permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of pursuing economic or cultural activities are concerned, their small numbers and the manifest absence of any of the four integration needs listed above makes them not eligible as a target group for integration.
94. Thus, due to the urgency of the problems faced by the above listed groups of immigrants residing in Armenia on the one hand and available opportunities for solving these problems on the other hand, in terms of Armenia's short-term integration policy on immigrants the following target groups may be given priority:
- a) The persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia - the integration of this group will encompass provision of temporary accommodation, language and civil orientation training;
 - b) Spouse, parents or children of foreign nationals holding a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia - this group will require training in the Armenian language and civil orientation;
 - c) Spouse or close family members (parent, child, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather or a grandchild) of an Armenian citizen or a foreign national with a permanent or special resident status in the Republic of Armenia - this group, too, needs the Armenian language training and civil orientation;
 - d) Foreign nationals holding a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of their Armenian ethnicity - for some individuals belonging to this group the language training and civil orientation will be needed;
 - e) Foreign nationals holding permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of their Armenian ethnicity - some individuals belonging to this group will also need language training and civil orientation.

V Implementation mechanisms for integration components and their financial assessment

95. To ensure integration of several select groups of immigrants, this concept paper provides for the following activities:
- a) Organization of the Armenian language courses;

- b)* Organization of the civil orientation training;
- c)* Organization of the civil orientation training.

Organization of the Armenian language courses

96. The beneficiaries of such courses must include:

- a)* persons major of age who are granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia (mostly non-Armenians, including refugees of Armenian ethnicity with poor mastery of the Armenian language, if necessary);
- b)* school-age children of the persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia;
- c)* persons granted temporary and permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia.

97. The organization of the Armenian language courses will be ensured through the following mechanisms:

- a)* Development of Armenian language courses curriculum;
- b)* Referral of beneficiaries;
- c)* Ensuring the provision of free of charge Armenian language courses.

Development of Armenian language courses curriculum

98. The course curriculum will be developed for each of group of beneficiaries, specifically:

- a)* persons major of age who are granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia. Their training will be composed of two parts:
 - main part of up to 60 hours to be offered free of charge;
 - optional part for a fee of up to 120 hours covering in-depth studies of the Armenian language according to the learner's choice.
- b)* school-age children of the persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia. The course will be offered as part of their training and will be held in general education schools free of charge for up to 100 hours.

- c) persons granted temporary and permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia. Their participation in the training will be optional and for a fee.

99. The course curriculum will be developed by the public administration authority in the field of education.

Referral of beneficiaries

100. The referral of beneficiaries will be made by relevant bodies authorised to work with foreign nationals in the Republic of Armenia by referring those who have expressed a wish to attend language training to the organization implementing it.

Ensuring the provision of free of charge Armenian language courses

101. The Armenian language courses will be offered by the public administration authority holding a relevant mandate in the field of education by including the Armenian language training program for immigrants in the list of program expenses for the current fiscal year.

Financial assessment on the provision of the Armenian language courses

102. Financial assessment on the provision of the Armenian language courses includes the following:

- a) Development of the course curriculum – 0 AMD;
- b) Selection of beneficiaries – 0 AMD;
- c) Ensuring the provision of the Armenian language courses - the course will be offered free of charge solely to the persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia. On the average, some 300 foreign nationals seek asylum in the Republic of Armenia on annual basis with approximately half of them granted asylum: 150 persons. The vast majority of them, around 100 persons, are ethnic Armenians with the remaining 50 being non-Armenians. The majority of ethnic Armenians encounter no problems related to the language. On the average, the total number of persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia who are in need of the Armenian language training will amount to 80 persons (50 non-Armenians + 30 ethnic Armenians). A compulsory training of up to 60 hours will be offered to them free of charge. The average amount required for the training comprises 30,000 AMD per person. **Thus, the total amount required for the provision of the training will comprise 2,400,000 AMD per annum (30,000 x 80).**

Organization of the civil orientation training

103. The beneficiaries of this training are:

- a) persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia (mostly non-Armenians and ethnic Armenians, if necessary);
- b) persons granted temporary and permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia.

104. Organization of the civil orientation training will be ensured through the following mechanisms:

- a) Development of the training curriculum;
- b) Referral of beneficiaries;
- c) Ensuring the provision of the civil orientation training.

Development of the training curriculum

105. The training will be composed of the following parts:

- a) legal part designed to give learners insight on the constitutional order of the Republic of Armenia, its public, legal and political system, as well as its national legislation on the human rights and particularly refugee rights;
- b) cultural part designed to give learners insight on the values, customs and rules of conduct adopted in our society;
- c) orientation part designed to give learners insight on employment assistance, educational, health care and social programs available in the country and accessible to them.

106. The duration of the training will be of up to 30 hours. The training will be offered free of charge to the persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia; persons granted temporary or permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia will have an option to attend the training for a fee.

107. The course curriculum will be developed by the public administration authority in the field of education in cooperation with the relevant public agencies of the Republic of Armenia.

Referral of beneficiaries

108. The referral of beneficiaries will be made by relevant bodies authorised to work with foreign nationals in the Republic of Armenia by referring those who have expressed a wish to attend civil orientation training to the organization implementing it.

Ensuring the provision of the civil orientation training

109. The civil orientation training will be offered by the public administration authority holding a relevant mandate in the field of migration by including the civil orientation training program for immigrants in the list of program expenses for the current fiscal year.

Financial assessment on the provision of free of charge civil orientation training

110. Financial assessment on the provision of free of charge civil orientation training includes the following:

- a) Development of the training curriculum – 0 AMD;
- b) Selection of beneficiaries – 0 AMD;
- c) Ensuring the provision of the civil orientation training - the training will be offered free of charge solely to the persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia. On the average, some 300 foreign nationals seek asylum in the Republic of Armenia on annual basis with approximately half of them granted asylum: 150 persons, all of whom experience needs in civil orientation training. The duration of the training will comprise 30 hours. The average amount required for the training comprises 15,000 AMD per person. **Thus, the total amount required for the provision of the training will comprise 2,250,000 AMD per annum (15,000 x 150).**

Provision of temporary accommodation

111. Temporary accommodation will be provided solely to the persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia, if so required.

The provision of temporary accommodation will be ensured through the following mechanisms:

- a) Selection of beneficiaries;
- b) Ensuring the provision of temporary accommodation.

Selection of beneficiaries

112. Needs assessment criteria will be developed for the purpose of selecting beneficiaries to evaluate the need for a temporary accommodation experienced by the persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia.
113. The needs assessment criteria will be developed and evaluated by the public administration authority in the field of migration.

Ensuring the provision of temporary accommodation

114. The provision of temporary accommodation can be handled in the following ways:
- a) by accommodating recognized refugees in social housing managed by the public administration authority dealing with the migration issues and constructed with the funding from international organizations. Such social housing is available at the following three addresses: Darbnik community of Ararat marz (46 apartments), third floor of the apartment building No. 70 at Moldovakan str., community of Nor Nork (13 apartments) and first floor of the same apartment building (11 apartments);
 - b) by accommodating recognized refugees in the social housing available within the system of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia;
 - c) by subsidizing accommodation rental of up to 9 months for persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia. A similar program is currently being implemented through UNHCR with each beneficiary family displaced from Syria receiving an accommodation rental grant. It is proposed to allocate subsidies of 60,000 AMD for a period of up to nine months. For this purpose, the public administration authority holding a relevant mandate in the field of migration will include the accommodation rental subsidies expenses program for persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia in the list of program expenses for the current fiscal year.

Financial assessment on the provision of temporary accommodation

115. Financial assessment on the provision of temporary accommodation includes the following:
- a) Selection of beneficiaries – 0 AMD;
 - b) Ensuring the provision of temporary accommodation;

On the average, some 50-60 families are recognized as refugees and granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia on annual basis (approximately 150 persons). It is realistic to accommodate half of the above number in social housing. **For the remaining 25-30 families, the amount required for accommodation rental subsidies will comprise 13.5 million AMD per annum (25 x 60,000 x 9).**

116. Incidentally, the *Law on Introducing Changes and Amendments in the Law on Refugee and Asylum of the Republic of Armenia* prescribes a similar approach (on subsidization of accommodation rental fees) for asylum-seekers who cannot be provided with accommodation.

Summary

117. The concept paper on integration policy of persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia as well as long-term migrants aims to fill the gap in Armenia's migration policy by establishing target groups of immigrants and potential avenues for their integration based on relevant international best practices.

118. Due to the urgency of the problems faced by immigrants residing in Armenia on the one hand and available opportunities for solving these problems on the other hand, in terms of Armenia's short-term integration policy on immigrants the following target groups have been identified as priority ones:

- a) The persons granted asylum and refugee status in the Republic of Armenia - the integration of this group will encompass provision of temporary accommodation, language and civil orientation training;
- b) Spouse, parents or children of foreign nationals holding a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia - this group will require training in the Armenian language and civil orientation;
- c) Spouse or close family members (parent, child, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather or a grandchild) of an Armenian citizen or a foreign national with a permanent or special resident status in the Republic of Armenia - this group, too, needs the Armenian language training and civil orientation;
- d) Foreign nationals holding a temporary resident status in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of their Armenian ethnicity - for some individuals belonging to this group the language training and civil orientation will be needed;

- e) Foreign nationals holding permanent resident status in the Republic of Armenia on the ground of their Armenian ethnicity - some individuals belonging to this group will also need language training and civil orientation.

119. The implementation of integration of the immigrants of the select groups will require yearly:

- a) Organization of the Armenian language courses – 2,400,000 AMD;
- b) Organization of the civil orientation trainings – 2,250,000 AMD;
- c) Provision of temporary accommodation-13,500,000 AMD.