Subject: Resolution A/HRC/35/20 – Human Rights and Climate Change

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and has the honour to refer to Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/35/20 of 22 June 2017 entitled “Human Rights and Climate Change”. The text of the resolution is available on the Internet.

In paragraph 10 of the above-mentioned resolution, the Human Rights Council has requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights “to organize an intersessional panel discussion prior to the commencement of phase II of the intergovernmental process leading to the global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration, with the theme ‘Human rights, climate change, migrants and persons displaced across international borders’”. This panel discussion took place on 6 October 2017 with the participation of States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant stakeholders.

In paragraph 12 of the above-mentioned resolution, the Human Rights Council further requested that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights undertake research on “addressing human rights protection gaps in the context of migration and displacement of persons across international borders resulting from the sudden-onset and slow-onset adverse effects of climate change and the necessary means of implementation of adaptation and mitigation plans of developing countries to bridge the protection gaps”.

The resolution calls for a report on this research to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-eighth session. The Office would like to express its gratitude for the constructive exchange of ideas regarding this theme during the panel discussion on 6 October 2017, which will help to inform and direct its research. In order to complement this information, the Office invites Member States to submit written inputs for its consideration by e-mail to registry@ohchr.org with a copy to bschachter@ohchr.org by no later than 17 February 2018.

In formulating their inputs, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomes Member States to respond, as appropriate, to the attached questionnaire. For environmental considerations, electronic submissions are encouraged, and we ask that responses not exceed five pages. Please submit contributions in MS Word or compatible format in either of the official working languages of the United Nations (French or English). Inputs received will be posted on our website.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

6 November 2017