

THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

ON REFUGEES AND ASYLUM

CHAPTER 1.

General Provisions and Definitions

Article 1. Subject of regulation of the Law

1. The Law of the Republic of Armenia “On Refugees and Asylum” (hereafter: the Law) regulates the legal relations concerning issues of recognition as refugee and granting asylum in the Republic of Armenia, ensures the implementation of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (hereafter: the Convention) as well as its 1967 Protocol, recognises the right of all foreign citizens and stateless persons to seek asylum inside the territory of the Republic of Armenia and at the state border crossing points of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the right to enjoy asylum in the Republic of Armenia, if they fulfil the necessary requirements for the granting of asylum stipulated in the present Law.
2. The present Law in compliance with the international principles and norms ensures protection of all foreigners and stateless persons against deportation to their country of citizenship, or any other country, where they are threatened by torture, inhuman or degrading treatment.
3. If the international agreements of the Republic of Armenia stipulate norms other than the present Law, the norms of international agreements are implemented.

Article 2. Asylum

1. Asylum is the protection granted to a foreign citizen or stateless person in the Republic of Armenia, which guarantees the application of the principle defined in Article 9 of this Law, as well as all the rights granted under the Convention, present Law, and other legal acts of the Republic of Armenia to refugees recognized as such in the Republic of Armenia.
2. Asylum, as defined in the Paragraph 1 of this Article, shall further be extended to any foreign citizen or stateless person recognized as a refugee by another State, if he/she has legally entered the territory of the Republic of Armenia and has one of the resident permits issued based on the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, providing the right to legally reside in the country.
3. The granting of asylum shall be considered a peaceful and humanitarian gesture and shall in no manner be regarded as an unfriendly act, as it does not imply any judgement on the country of citizenship of the refugee or any other country.

Article 3. Granting Asylum in Case of Mass-Influx

1. Pursuant to the procedure established by the present Law, the Republic of Armenia, upon the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on granting temporary protection, may grant asylum to groups of foreign citizens or stateless persons, who flee the bordering countries of the Republic of Armenia due to reasons specified in Article 6, Paragraph 1 of the present Law.
2. Without undergoing the individual procedure outlined in the present Law, the persons defined in Paragraph 1 of the present Article shall receive the same rights and shall have the same obligations as refugees individually granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, while the exclusion, cessation and cancellation with regard to their recognition as refugees and asylum shall follow the provisions and procedures envisaged for refugees in the present Law, who have received asylum in an individual procedure.

Article 4. Voluntary Repatriation

1. Voluntary Repatriation shall mean the return of an asylum seeker or a refugee to his/her country of origin accomplished with the assistance of the designated state body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter: designated body), under the procedure specified in Article 60 of the present Law.
2. The principle of “voluntariness” shall be respected by all authorities involved in refugee and asylum issues and means that the asylum seeker or refugee:
 1. Is aware about the situation of the country of his/her citizenship or previous residence, is able to make an informed decision to return;
 2. until a final decision on asylum is taken or until his/her recognition as a refugee is ceased, he/she chooses to return to the country of his/her citizenship or previous residence or to stay in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.
3. All relevant authorities involved in issues concerning refugees and asylum seekers shall facilitate the procedure for voluntary repatriation of a refugee or asylum seeker, upon the request of the asylum seeker, refugee or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (hereafter: UNHCR).

Article 5. Asylum Seeker

1. An asylum seeker is a foreign citizen, or stateless person applying for asylum pursuant to Article 13, Paragraph 1 of the present Law.
2. Also a refugee recognised by another Signatory State to the Convention, who applies for asylum pursuant to Paragraph 1 of the present Article, shall be considered an asylum seeker.
3. A foreign citizen, or stateless person, who applied for asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall be considered as an asylum seeker on the territory of the Republic of Armenia and

receive all rights asylum seekers are entitled to by the present Law until a final decision on his/her asylum application is adopted.

Article 6. Refugee

1. A refugee is:
 - 1) A foreign citizen, who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her citizenship and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a citizenship and being outside the country of his/her former residence is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.
 - 2) A foreign citizen, who has been compelled to leave his/her country of citizenship, or, in case of a stateless person, his/her former residence due to generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights, or other serious events which have disturbed public order.
2. For a person with more than one citizenship, the term "country of his/her citizenship" shall mean each of the countries of which he/she is citizen. In this case a person shall be deemed to be lacking the protection of the country of his/her citizenship, if he/she cannot avail him/herself of protection of one of the countries of his/her citizenship due to the reasons listed in Points 1) and 2) of Paragraph 1 of the present Article.
3. A foreign citizen or stateless person, officially recognised as a refugee by the other Signatory States to the Convention, shall also be considered a refugee.

Article 7. Asylum for Family Members and Family Reunion

1. The spouse, the child under 18 years of age, and any other person under the lawful care of a refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall also be considered refugees and accorded with asylum in the Republic of Armenia, if they reside together with the refugee in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and do not possess any citizenship - different from that of the refugee - providing effective protection.
2. Other relatives, or in-laws of a refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia may also be considered refugees and accorded with asylum in the Republic of Armenia, provided they reside together with the refugee in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, are dependent on him/her and do not possess any citizenship - different from that of the refugee - providing effective protection.
3. According to the criteria of Article 6 of the present Law, the parents of the child who is recognized as a refugee and received asylum in the Republic of Armenia, under 18 years old, as well as sisters and brothers above 18 who are disabled, are also considered refugees and granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, if they reside together with the child who received refugee status and do not possess citizenship of another state – different from that of this child – providing effective protection.

4. Refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall be entitled to family reunion with their family members specified in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Article on the territory of the Republic of Armenia pursuant to the procedure stipulated in Article 54 of the present Law.
5. In case of cessation, or cancellation of the recognition as refugee, or the cessation of asylum of the refugee who was recognized first (hereafter: the principal refugee) pursuant to Article 53, of the present law, his/her family members, who have been recognised as refugees and obtained asylum in the Republic of Armenia according to Paragraphs 1, 2, or 3 of the present Article, shall forfeit their status together with the principle refugee. However, this shall not deprive them of the possibility to launch an asylum application immediately thereafter based on their personal reasons. They shall, however, if recognised as refugees and granted asylum not be able to confer their status to those family members, who have lost their recognition as refugees and the right to asylum by cessation, revocation, or cancellation.

Article 8. Unaccompanied and Separated From The Family Minor Asylum Seekers and Refugees

1. An unaccompanied and/or separated minor in the meaning of the present Law shall be considered as a child, who is an asylum seeker or refugee and under the age of 18, do not have a legal representative (parents (parent), guardian, custodian) in the territory of the Republic of Armenia.
2. Unaccompanied or separated minor shall undergo the general asylum procedure provided for by the present Law, if not specified differently by the present law and other laws of the Republic of Armenia. Unaccompanied and/or separated minor shall enjoy the same rights as asylum seekers and refugees, if not specified differently by the present law and other laws of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The designated Body shall facilitate the reception and ensure the care for an unaccompanied and separated minor pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia as well as the full enjoyment of his/her rights pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.
4. All State Bodies as stated in Article 32 of the present Law, dealing with unaccompanied or separated minor asylum seekers or refugees shall consider their special situation, opinion and maturity, provide them with all possible assistance and act in the best interest of the minor within their competence.

Article 9. Non-refoulement

1. According to the present Law and the international law, the principle of non-refoulement means not to return a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of the territories where his/her life or freedom would be threatened on account of his/her race, religion,

nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion; or where external aggression, occupation, foreign domination, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights or other serious events disrupting public order prevail.

2. No asylum seeker shall be refouled from the territory of the Republic of Armenia prior to the final decision on his/her asylum application pursuant to Article 47 of the present Law.
3. No foreign citizen or stateless person shall be expelled, returned or extradited to another country where there are substantial grounds for believing that he/she would be in danger of being subject to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment including torture.

Article 10. Cessation of the Refugee Recognition and Cessation of the Granting of Asylum

1. A person ceases to be recognised as a refugee if he/she:
 - 1) has voluntarily re-availed him/herself of the protection of the country of his/her citizenship; or
 - 2) having lost his/her citizenship, he/she has voluntarily re-acquired it; or
 - 3) has acquired a new citizenship, and enjoys the protection of the country of his/her new citizenship; or
 - 4) has voluntarily re-established him/herself in the country which he/she left or outside which he/she remained owing to a fear of persecution; or
 - 5) can no longer continue to refuse to avail him/herself of the protection of the country of his/her citizenship, because the circumstances in connection with which he/she has been recognised as a refugee have ceased to exist;
 - 6) not having a citizenship he/she is able to return to the country of his/her former residence, because the circumstances in connection with which he/she has been recognised as a refugee have ceased to exist; or
 - 7) for personal reasons is not willing to remain any longer a refugee.
2. Points 5 and 6 of Paragraph 1 of the present Article shall not be applied to those refugees, who are able to invoke compelling reasons arising out of previous persecution for refusing the protection of his/her country of his/her citizenship, or in case of a stateless person to return to his/her country of former residence.
3. The asylum granted to a refugee in the Republic of Armenia shall cease, if there are reasonable grounds for regarding him/her as a danger to the national security of the Republic of Armenia, or who, having been convicted for committing a serious or particularly serious crime.
4. The asylum granted to a refugee in the Republic of Armenia shall cease if he/she leaves the Republic of Armenia and remains outside its territory after the expiration of the Convention Travel Document issued to him/her pursuant to Article 30 of the present Law.
5. The cessation of the recognition as a refugee and the cessation of asylum shall be established only by the designated body, in accordance with the procedures stipulated in Article 53 of the present Law.

Article 11. The grounds for exclusion from the Recognition as a Refugee and for refusal of Granting Asylum

1. A foreign citizen or stateless person, shall not be considered a refugee, if there are serious reasons to believe that:
 - 1) he/she has committed a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity, according to the international instruments drawn up to make provisions in respect of such crimes;
 - 2) he/she has committed a serious non-political crime outside the Republic of Armenia, before he/she became an asylum seeker in the Republic of Armenia;
 - 3) he/she has been guilty of acts contrary to purposes and principles of the United Nations.
2. Asylum may be denied to any refugee, who arrives from a safe third country, where he/she does not fear persecution, human rights violation, or refoulement in the sense of Point 1 of Paragraph 1 of Article 6, and Article 9, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Law, or external aggression, occupation, foreign domination, internal conflicts, or other events seriously disrupting public order in the sense of Point 1 of Paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the present Law, and he/she can lawfully return to that country.
3. Decision on refusal from the recognition as a refugee and from granting asylum shall be established only by the designated body according to the respective procedures stipulated in Article 53 of the present Law.

Article 12. Cancellation of the Recognition as Refugee

1. The recognition as a refugee by the designated body shall be cancelled when it becomes evident that the person has manifestly not been fulfilling the requirements for the recognition as a refugee according to the present Law, because newly discovered evidence confirms that the statements initially made or documents provided were fraudulent.
2. The cancellation of recognition as a refugee shall be fulfilled only by the designated body, according to the procedures stipulated in Article 53 of the present Law.

Article 13. Asylum application

1. An asylum application shall be the asylum request or asylum application submitted by a foreign citizen or stateless person to the bodies defined in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present Article.
2. Any statement regardless whether submitted orally, in writing, with the help of gestures, or by any other means of communication, made in person to the Border Guards of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter: border guards) within the State body on national security

issues designated by the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter: designated body for national security), at the state border crossing points of the Republic of Armenia, and to the designated body in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, as well as to the state body designated by the Government of the Republic of Armenia for combating crime and unlawful activities and keeping public order (hereafter: Police), which expresses his/her willingness to find protection in the Republic of Armenia, shall be considered an Asylum Request.

3. The written request for asylum submitted by a foreign citizen or a stateless person to the designated body within the territory of the Republic of Armenia shall be considered an Asylum Application. The application form shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The asylum application may be submitted either subsequent to an asylum request according to Paragraph 2 of the present Article in order to complete the asylum application process, or directly, without a prior asylum request.

4. Asylum requests and asylum applications for the entire family seeking for asylum can be filed for the entire family defined by Article 7, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Law by one family member present on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, which, however, shall not impede the right of other family members to file their own individual applications pursuant to the procedure set in the Paragraph 3 of the present Article due to personal reasons.

Article 14. Temporary reception center for asylum seekers

1. Temporary reception center for asylum seekers (hereafter: temporary reception center) is a special institution, where the designated body places the asylum seekers until the final decision on their asylum application is adopted.

CHAPTER 2

Rights and Obligations of Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Article 15. Basic Rights and Obligations of Asylum Seekers and Refugees

1. Asylum seekers and refugees shall have the same rights and obligations as foreigners and stateless persons legally residing in the Republic of Armenia, unless the present Law provides otherwise.

Article 16. Right to apply to UNHCR

1. Asylum seekers and refugees have the right to contact the UNHCR at any time.
2. The bodies defined in Article 13 of the present Law shall inform all asylum seekers and refugees of this right, when receiving an asylum application.

Article 17. Exemption from Exceptional Measures

1. Those exceptional measures, which may be taken against the person, property or interests of citizens of another country, shall not be applied to those refugees, who, being citizens of another country, are granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia.

Article 18. Personal Law

1. The personal law of refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall be determined by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The personal law of a refugee granted asylum in another country shall be determined by the legislation of the country that granted him asylum.
3. Previously acquired rights, drawn from the personal status of a refugee, in particular related to marriage, shall be respected by the state bodies of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 19. Right to Property

1. Asylum seekers and refugees shall be granted the same rights as citizens of the Republic of Armenia with regard to the acquisition and transfer of movable property and with regard to leases and rent of immovable property as well as with regard to other property legal relations.
2. Refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall be granted the most favourable treatment accorded by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia to foreign citizens in legal relations with regard to acquisition, possession, ownership, usage and transfer of immovable property.

Article 20. Intellectual Property Rights

1. Refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall in respect of the protection of the right to industrial property, such as inventions, production technologies, designs, models, trade marks, and trade names, as well as of the property rights to literary, artistic and scientific works, be accorded the same protection as is accorded to citizens of the Republic of Armenia.
2. Refugees granted asylum in another country, shall in the Republic of Armenia have the same protection of the rights specified in Paragraph 1 of the present Article as citizens of the country that granted asylum.

Article 21. Wage-earning Employment

1. Asylum seekers and refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall be allowed to seek and find an employment within the territory of the Republic of Armenia under the same conditions as citizens of the Republic of Armenia, unless the present Law provides otherwise.

Article 22. Right to be Engaged in Entrepreneurship

1. Refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia have the right to be engaged , in entrepreneurship under the same conditions as citizens of the Republic of Armenia, according to the procedure defined by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia for citizens of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 23. Right to Social Security and Medical Care

1. Refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall have the right to benefit from the social services, state-allowances and other financial assistance, including allowances granted for temporary unemployment, injuries, accidents and work-related diseases, guaranteed free medical care and services by the State, which are defined by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, as well as shall have the right for social protection with regard to pension security and unemployment prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, if they fulfill the requirements set in the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, regulating this concrete area.

2. Asylum seekers and refugees not granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall have the right to receive free medical care and services guaranteed by the State for citizens of the Republic of Armenia, if they fulfill the requirements set in the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, regulating this concrete area.

Article 24. Right to Accommodation

1. Asylum seekers and their family members according to Article 7, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Law, who approach the Designated Body pursuant to Article 47 Paragraph 1 of the present Law shall be accommodated in the temporary reception centre, as defined in Article 14 of the present Law, and provided with food (three times per day), bed linen, hygienic kits, in case of need, clothes and shoes (hereinafter: subsistence means) by the Designated Body.

Procedure for provision of temporary accommodation and subsistence means is defined by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

After they have completed the registration of their asylum application pursuant to Article 48 of the present Law, asylum seekers may either continue to stay in the reception centre or chose to stay at another accommodation on their own means.

2. According to Article 47, Paragraph 2 of the present Law, asylum seekers and family members of asylum seekers, who approach the Designated Body the Designated Body shall be accommodated in the temporary accommodation defined in Article 14 of the present Law, where according to Paragraph 1 of the present Article, they shall by provided with subsistence means until a final decision on their application is made.
3. Refugees, who are refused, asylum may be permitted by the Designated Body to continue to stay in the Temporary reception centre until they either have left the Republic of Armenia, or they will be granted asylum, according to Article 58, Paragraph 2 of the present Law.

Article 25. Public Education

1. Asylum seekers and refugees shall have the right to basic general education equal to citizens of the Republic of Armenia.
2. Refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall be treated as favorable as other foreign citizens with regard to the access to studies, recognition of foreign school

certificates, diplomas and degrees, the remission of fees and charges and the award of scholarships.

Article 26. Administrative Assistance

1. If the exercise of a right by a refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia would normally require the issuance of documents or certifications of the authorities of a foreign country to whom the refugee cannot have recourse, the UNHCR shall issue such documents or certifications to him/her.
2. Documents or certifications so delivered to refugees shall stand as official documents delivered to foreigners by their national authorities. They shall be recognized by all state bodies and court of the Republic of Armenia and considered as valid in the absence of proof to the contrary.
3. When documents submitted by an asylum seeker or refugees require the verification of their lawfulness and terms, the Designated Body shall, pursuant to Article 37, Paragraph 2 of the present Law, verify those documents through the diplomatic representation of the Republic of Armenia in the relevant country.

Article 27. Freedom of Movement

1. Refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia as well as asylum seekers and their family members defined by Article 7, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Law, who approach the Designated Body pursuant to Article 47, Paragraph 1 of the present Law shall enjoy the same treatment as is accorded to citizens of the Republic of Armenia, with respect to the right to choose their place of residence and to move freely within the State-territory.
2. Refugees not granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia as well as asylum seekers and their family members defined by Article 7, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Law, who approach the Designated Body pursuant to Article 47, Paragraph 2 of the present Law may be subject to limitations of freedom of movement, as defined by the law of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 28. Illegal Entry to the Republic of Armenia

1. Asylum seekers and refugees shall not bear criminal or administrative liability for illegal entry or stay in the Republic of Armenia.

2. When an asylum seeker deliberately does not co-operate according to Article 55, Paragraph 1 of the present Law, delays the extension of his/her identity document, or does not comply with the restrictions of movement as defined in Article 27, Paragraph 2 of the present law, he can be called to liability, as stated by the law.

Article 29. Identity Document of an Asylum Seeker

1. The Designated Body shall issue, free of charge, to every asylum seeker and his/her family members an Identity Document for Asylum Seekers after presenting an asylum application according to Article 13, Paragraph 2 of the present Law. Family members under the age of 16 shall be included in the identity documents of their parents or custodians, who presented the asylum application. Unaccompanied and/or separated from the family asylum seekers under the age of 16 shall be issued with individual identity document.
2. The identity document for asylum seekers shall be issued for three months and shall be extended by the Designated Body every time it expires for another period up to three months until a final decision with regard to the asylum application has been delivered.
3. The identity document for asylum seekers shall serve as confirmation of legal residence and shall be valid within the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia. It shall grant the asylum seeker the right to choose residence at any place pursuant to Article 27, Paragraph 1 of the present Law, with the exception of asylum seekers, whose movement can be restricted pursuant to Article 27, Paragraph 2 of the present Law.
4. The identity document loses its validity one week after a final decision on refusal of asylum application delivered to the asylum seeker, and in the case of satisfying the application, as soon as the Police issues the Convention Travel Document to the asylum seeker, according to Article 30, Paragraph 1 of the present Law. Refugees not granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall, pursuant to Article 58, Paragraph 2 of the present Law, continue to hold the identity document provided to them. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*
5. In case of loss, destruction or theft of the identity document, the Designated Body shall, after thorough investigation of the case, if necessary in cooperation with the law enforcement bodies, issue a new identity document for asylum seekers with the same validity term as the previous one. During the investigation the asylum seeker shall be issued with a note from the Designated Body confirming his/her status as asylum seeker and the loss of the identity document.

Article 30. Convention Travel Document

1. The Convention Travel Document will serve as a valid document, which certifies identification of a refugee and constitutes the legal residence in the Republic of Armenia

and permits leaving Republic of Armenia. It shall also serve as a confirmation that the refugee holding it, benefits from the rights and freedoms prescribed by the present Law.

2. The Police pursuant to Article 58, Paragraph 1 of the present Law, shall issue a Convention Travel Document to refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia free of charge. Refugees under the age of 16 shall be included in the Convention Travel Document of their parents. Unaccompanied and/or separated from the family refugee minors under the age of 16 shall receive a Convention Travel Document on their own, which cannot be used for leaving the Republic of Armenia without a guardian. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*
3. The Convention Travel Document shall be valid for two years and shall be renewed afterwards by the Police for two years each time subsequent to an application of the refugee. The Convention Travel Document shall lose its validity one week after a final cancellation or cessation of asylum or refugee recognition pursuant to Article 53 of the present Law. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*
4. In case of loss, destruction or theft of the Convention Travel Document, the Police shall inform the Designated Body about that and shall, after thorough investigation issue a new Convention Travel Document with the same validity as the previous one. For the time of the investigation the refugee shall be issued with a note from the Designated Body confirming his/her status as refugee and from Police confirming the loss of the original Convention Travel Document. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*
5. The Description of the Convention Travel Document shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in compliance with the Annex to the Convention.

Article 31. Guaranteeing the Rights of Asylum Seekers and Refugees by the State and non-State bodies

1. All rights accorded to asylum seekers and refugees by the present Law or by other laws of the Republic of Armenia and international treaties of the Republic of Armenia shall be respected by all State and Non-State Bodies of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The identity documents provided to asylum seekers and refugees according to Articles 29 and 30 of the present Law shall serve as confirmation of their rights prescribed to them by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.
3. The Designated Body within its competence shall assist the asylum seekers and refugees with regard to their relations with other Bodies with regard to the protection of their rights prescribed to them by the present law or other laws of the Republic of Armenia and international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

CHAPTER 3

Responsibilities of Responsible State Authorities on Asylum Issues and UNHCR Representation in Armenia

Article 32. The Responsible State Bodies on Asylum Issues

1. In the Republic of Armenia the responsible State Bodies for granting asylum to foreign citizens and stateless persons (hereafter: foreigners), recognising as refugees as well as facilitation of the rights to asylum seekers and refugees and for all other legal relations stipulated by the present law, are:
 - 1) The Government of the Republic of Armenia;
 - 2) The Designated Body;
 - 3) The Designated Body on National Security issues, including the Border Guards;
 - 4) The Police;
 - 5) The designated State Body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for Foreign Affairs (hereafter: Designated Body for Foreign Affairs);
 - 6) The Designated State Body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for Labor and Social issues (hereafter: Designated Body on Labor and Social Issues);
 - 7) The Designated State Body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for Education Issues (hereafter: Designated Body on Education Issues);
 - 8) The Designated State Body of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for Health Issues (hereafter: Designated Body on Health Issues);
 - 9) The Guardianship and Custodian Bodies (hereafter: Guardianship Bodies);
 - 10) The Child Protection Units of the Marzpetarans (Office of the Mayor of Yerevan, etc) (hereafter: Child Protection Units);
 - 11) Other competent State Bodies of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The State Bodies specified in Paragraph 1 of the present Article shall consider the granting of asylum within the interests of the Republic of Armenia and shall under no circumstances exchange any information on asylum seekers and refugees with the authorities of their countries of origin in the course of the implementation of the present Law and other asylum and refugee related legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 33. Responsibilities of the Government of the Republic of Armenia

1. The Government of the Republic of Armenia shall:
 - 1) adopt and approve the procedures, regulations and decisions falling within its competence pursuant to the present Law.
 - 2) decide on the amounts to be allocated within the state budget for the implementation of the present Law;
 - 3) establish a temporary accommodation for asylum seekers and enact regulations for its functioning and maintenance;

- 4) approve the formats and enact the issuance procedures for identity documents, as well as Convention Travel documents of asylum seekers and refugees foreseen by the present Law.

Article 34. Responsibilities of Designated Body on Migration Issues

1. The Designated Body shall:
 - 1) conduct the centralized registration of asylum seekers in the Republic of Armenia and refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, maintain informational database and constantly update all information in this database;
 - 2) implement the asylum procedures stipulated by the present Law and shall be exclusively responsible to take all relevant decisions with regard to these procedures;
 - 3) apply, if necessary, to the Designated Body on National Security issues for advice in cases of asylum seekers and refugees, who illegally entered the country, where there could be a possible danger to the national security of the Republic of Armenia;
 - 4) apply, if necessary, to the Designated State Bodies on National Security issues, Foreign Affairs Issues as well as to the Police for support in the verification of the identity of asylum seekers;
 - 5) inform the Police within three working days on the final decisions adopted on the asylum applications, in compliant with the terms and procedures stipulated by the present Law; *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*
 - 6) cooperate with the State Bodies outlined in Article 32 of the present Law and the UNHCR in order to fulfill its responsibilities with regard to the realization of the rights granted to the asylum seekers and refugees in the Republic of Armenia;
 - 7) provide the UNHCR with all information relevant to refugees and asylum, including statistics and lists of names of registered asylum seekers and refugees as well as individual files of asylum seekers and refugees, with their consent;
 - 8) apply, in cases of unaccompanied and/or separated minor or disable asylum seekers, to the Designated Body on Labor and Social Issues and, if necessary, to the Child Protection Units in order to arrange for the accommodation and care for the unaccompanied and/or separated minor or the disabled asylum seeker;
 - 9) take authorities assigned by the present Law and other laws and legal acts of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 35. Responsibilities of the Designated Body on National Security Issues

1. The Designated Body on National Security Issues shall, upon the request of the Designated Body, assist in the verification of the identity of an asylum seeker and in the examination of the facts brought forward in the course of his/her asylum procedure as well as provide advice in cases of asylum seekers and refugees where there could be a potential threat to the national security of the Republic of Armenia.

2. The Border Guards shall verify the documents of asylum seekers at the border crossing points of the Republic of Armenia pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia regulating the border crossing procedures, as well as:
 1. Advise asylum seekers, who legally entered the Republic of Armenia and submitted an asylum request pursuant to Article 46 of the present Law, on the further asylum procedure and asylum application with the Designated Body pursuant to Article 47 of the present Law.
 2. Accept asylum applications from asylum seekers, who entered the Republic of Armenia illegally (with violation of border crossing regime) and record them pursuant to the defined procedure in a special journal established for that purposes as well as inform the Designated Body and the Police about the asylum application. The Border Guards may detain these asylum seekers for no more than 72 hours pursuant to Article 37, Paragraph 1 of the Law “On foreign citizens” of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 36. Responsibilities of the Police

1. The Police shall:
 - 1) Refer asylum seekers to the Designated Body informing them on the location of the designated body and the application procedure. If needed, the Police shall provide transportation assistance to those asylum seekers who have no other means to reach the Designated Body;
 - 2) upon the request of the Designated Body, assist in the verification of the identity of an asylum seeker and in the examination of the facts brought forward in the course of his/her asylum procedure;
 - 3) if necessary, in cooperation with the State Bodies responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the courts of the Republic of Armenia, ensure the deportation of rejected asylum seekers, in accordance with the procedure defined by the laws, who cannot benefit from the non-refoulement provision of Article 9 of the present Law.
 - 4) issue a Convention Travel Document to the refugees who were granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia in compliance with the stipulated procedure. *(Added as per amendments of 3 March 2011)*

Article 37. Responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall, upon the request of the Designated Body, assist in the verification of the identity of an asylum seeker and in the examination of the facts brought forward in the course of his/her asylum procedure.
2. The Diplomatic and Consular representations of the Republic of Armenia shall ratify the documents and acts of the asylum seekers in the Republic of Armenia and the refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, established by the competent bodies of the

counties covered by them. The Consular services also shall assist in the family reunion of refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia pursuant to Article 54 of the present Law.

Article 38. Responsibilities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues

1. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs shall ensure that asylum seekers and refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia can fully enjoy social rights pursuant to Article 21 and 23 of the present Law.
2. The Ministry of Labor and Social Issues shall, upon the request of the Designated Body and in cooperation with the Guardianship Bodies and Child Protection Units, ensure adequate accommodation and care for unaccompanied and/or separated minor asylum seekers.

Article 39. Responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Science

1. The Ministry of Education and Science shall take measures towards enjoying the right to education of asylum seekers in the Republic of Armenia and refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia pursuant to Article 25 of the present Law.
2. Upon the request of the Guardianship Bodies organizes the admittance of unaccompanied and/or separated minor asylum seekers and refugees to educational institution.

Article 40. Responsibilities of the Ministry of Health

1. The Ministry of Health shall take measures towards realizing the rights of refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, pursuant in the Article 23, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present Law.
2. Upon request of the Ministry of Health ensures free of charge medical examinations, conducting preventive and, if needed, restrictive measures for asylum seekers.

Article 41. Responsibilities of the Guardianship Bodies

1. Guardianship Bodies shall, upon the request of the Designated Body on Labor and Social Issues or Child Protection Units, facilitate - within their community - the appointments of a guardian or custodian for unaccompanied (or) separated minor asylum seeker.

Article 42. Responsibilities of the Child Protection Units

1. Child Protection Units shall, in the cases prescribed by Article 34, Paragraph 8 and Article 38, Paragraph 2 of the present Law, facilitate - in cooperation with the Guardianship Bodies - accommodation and care for unaccompanied or separated from the family minor asylum seekers.

Article 43. Responsibilities of other competent State Bodies of the Republic of Armenia

1. All State Bodies of the Republic of Armenia are obliged, pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, to solve any problem within their competence pursuant to the present Law or other laws of the Republic of Armenia related to asylum seekers in the Republic of Armenia and refugees granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia.

Article 44. The UNHCR Responsibilities

1. The UNHCR shall be granted full support and co-operation by all Bodies responsible for asylum and refugees, in order to supervise the implementation of the Convention and its 1967 Protocol.
2. The UNHCR representatives can have at any time access to any asylum seeker or refugee on the territory of the Republic of Armenia, including those detained or imprisoned according to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, as well as participate in interviews of asylum seekers taking place at the Designated Body, pursuant to Article 51, Paragraph 8 of the present Law.
3. The UNHCR provides for the consideration of Designated Body as well as the bodies defined in Article 32 of the present Law, information necessary for the implementation of their responsibilities, organizes trainings and presents recommendations concerning solutions for individual asylum seekers and refugees, as well as concerning the improvement of implementing mechanisms for the present Law.

CHAPTER 4

ASYLUM PROCEDURE

Article 45. Procedure for Granting Asylum

1. Procedure for granting asylum shall be the term used in the present Law specifying the administrative procedure to be followed by the Designated Body with regard to the recognition of refugees and the granting of asylum.
2. Procedure for granting asylum shall be implemented in compliance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the Fundamentals of Administration and Administrative Process”, unless the present Law provides otherwise.

Article 46. Asylum Request

1. Foreign citizens who wish to request asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall approach the bodies defined in Article 13, Paragraph 2 of the present Law.
2. Asylum request shall be launched by an asylum seeker pursuant to Article 13, Paragraph 2 of the present Law and, in case of families seeking asylum, in addition pursuant to Article 13 Paragraph 4 of the present Law, by one of the family members defined by Article 7 Paragraphs 1 to 3 of the present Law.
3. Asylum request shall express the desire to find protection in the Republic of Armenia. It should also contain the bio-data of the asylum seeker and all accompanying family members, as well as a description of the travel route taken from the country of origin to the Republic of Armenia.
4. The Border Guards or the Police shall interview the asylum seeker with regard to the information required pursuant to Paragraph 3 of the present Article and register the asylum request in the journal.
Format of the journal shall be approved by the joint decision of the Border Guards, Police and Designated Body on Migration Issues.

The interview shall be recorded in a written protocol by the authorities receiving the asylum request, and then along with a written asylum request, if such exists, it shall be forwarded to the Designated Body, and copies shall remain with the afore-named bodies.

5. In case the asylum seeker and his/her accompanying family members defined by Article 7, Paragraphs 1 to 3 of the present Law are holding valid travel documents including visa valid

for the Republic of Armenia, the Border Guards or the Police Authorities shall inform them to present an asylum application to the Designated Body.

6. In case the asylum seeker and his/her accompanying family members defined by Article 7 Paragraphs 1 to 3 of the present Law are not holding valid travel documents or visa valid for the Republic of Armenia, the Border Guards may keep them in special dwelling, specified in Article 37, Paragraph 1 of the law of the Republic of Armenia “On foreigners”, for the period no longer than 72 hours, after which they should be transferred to the Temporary Reception Centre specified in Article 14 of the present Law. The conditions for keeping in special dwelling shall be in accordance with international standards.
7. In a case provided for in Part 6 of the present Article, defined in the same Paragraph, bodies shall immediately inform the Designated Body about the arrest, granting the representatives of the latter with the right to unhindered access with the asylum seeker and his/her family members, in order to receive the asylum application and to carry out an asylum procedure, as well as to facilitate their transfer to the reception center and the regularization of their residential status. Staff members of the UNHCR shall have right to unhindered access to the asylum seeker and his/her family members.
8. In case the asylum seeker and his/her family members do not have the means to cover the travel expenses from the place where they filed the asylum request to the central office of the Designated Body, the Border Guards or the Police authorities shall immediately inform the Designated Body. The latter shall organize the transfer of the asylum seeker and his/her family to the office of the Designated Body, if necessary, in liaison with Non-Governmental Organizations and the UNHCR.
9. The Border Guards or the Police shall inform the asylum seeker and his/her family members of their obligations and rights, and in particular, of their right to apply to the UNHCR.

Article 47. Asylum application

1. Foreign citizens staying legally within the territory of the Republic of Armenia, who intend to receive asylum, shall apply to the Designated Body and immediately submit an asylum application pursuant to Article 13, Paragraph 3 of the present Law, or submit their asylum application in conjunction with the procedure stipulated in Article 46, Paragraph 5 of the present Law.
2. Foreign citizens staying illegally within the territory of the Republic of Armenia, who intend to receive asylum, shall apply to the Designated Body and immediately submit an asylum application pursuant to Article 13, Paragraph 3 of the present Law, or submit their asylum application in conjunction with the procedure stipulated in Article 46, Paragraphs 5 to 7 of the present Law.

3. In cases provided for in Paragraph 2 of the present Article, where an asylum application is directly filed with the Designated Body, the latter shall inform after the completion of the asylum application the Police authorities, which shall proceed in accordance with Article 46, Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the present Law. In case Police temporarily detains the asylum seeker, the Designated Body shall have unhindered access to the asylum seeker and his/her family members, in order to continue with the asylum procedure, as well as to facilitate the regularization of their residential status.
4. The asylum application pursuant to Article 13, Paragraph 3 of the present Law, shall be presented by the asylum seeker in writing in Armenian, or in his/her mother tongue or in one of the United Nations languages to the Designated Body.
5. In the case of a family seeking asylum, each family member defined in Article 7 Paragraph 1 to 3 of the present Law may, pursuant to Article 13 Paragraph 4 of the present Law, either be included in the asylum application of another family member, or file an individual asylum application. The agreement to be included in another family member's file shall be recorded by the Designated Body and signed by the asylum seeker concerned.
6. The asylum seeker shall express in detail in the application his/her reasons for seeking asylum in the territory of the Republic of Armenia and substantiate his/her fear of possible persecution or the compelling reasons for which he/she left the country of his/her citizenship or previous residence, as defined in Article 6, Paragraph 1 of the present Law.
7. The Designated Body shall assist the asylum seeker in completing the asylum application, by providing an interpreter free of charge when needed, and if the asylum seeker so desires, assist him/her in contacting a lawyer or the UNHCR.
8. If the asylum seeker is an unaccompanied and/or separated from the family minor, as defined in Article 8, Paragraph 1 of the present Law, the Designated Body shall facilitate the appointment of a guardian pursuant to Article 8, Paragraph 3 of the present Law. All further legal relations related to the asylum application and the asylum procedure by the Designated Body or other authorities shall involve the appointed guardian.

Article 48. Registration of Asylum Applications at the Designated Body

1. As soon as an asylum application is submitted and registered, the Designated Body shall register the asylum seeker in the database of Designated Body and open an individual file of an asylum seeker. Family members and other dependants defined in Article 7, Paragraphs 1 to 3 of the present Law, who stay within the territory of the Republic of Armenia and want to apply for asylum without filing an individual asylum application pursuant to Article 47 of the present Law, shall be registered together with the asylum seeker filing an individual application and included in his/her individual file.

2. Family members and other dependants, who file an individual asylum application pursuant to Article 47, Paragraph 2 of the present Law shall be registered as individuals, and individual files shall be opened for each of them.
3. The asylum seeker shall be advised to report any changes concerning the information provided during the registration pursuant to Paragraph 1 of the present Article and in particular his/her address and any change thereof, immediately to the Designated Body. The asylum seeker shall, in this context, be further advised about the legal consequences, including the suspension and termination of the asylum procedure, as stipulated in Article 55 of the present Law, in case he/she cannot be contacted by the Designated Body due to his/her own failure to comply with rules contained in the present part.
4. When registering the asylum application of the asylum seeker and opening an individual file concerning the latter, the Designated Body shall provide the asylum seeker, as well as his/her family members and dependents with individual Identity Document for Asylum Seekers pursuant to Article 29 of the present Law, as well as with a notification concerning his/her interview pursuant to Article 51 Paragraph 2 of the present Law.

Article 49. Counselling

1. Pursuant to Article 48 of the present Law, while accepting, registering the asylum application and filing a respective file the Designated Body shall provide free of charge counseling to the asylum seeker on his/her rights and duties.
2. Through counseling the asylum seeker shall be informed about his/her obligation to cooperate with the bodies defined in Chapter 3 of the present Law. In particular, he/she shall be obliged:
 1. to provide all necessary and full information, verbally and in writing, to the relevant bodies;
 2. to observe the official deadlines and orders, which require him/her to report in person to the Designated Body;
 3. to apply to the Designated Body for an extension of the validity of the identity document for asylum seekers at least three working days before it expires, as overstaying the validity of the identity document for asylum seekers may result in an illegal stay; and
 4. to present all relevant documents in his/her possession, necessary for the asylum procedure, to the Designated Body.
3. The asylum seeker shall be informed that insufficient co-operation or false information provided by him/her, may lead to a rejection of his/her asylum application, as well as in case of non-fulfilment of the obligation, defined in Paragraph 2, Point 3 of the present Article he/she may be led to fines, defined by the Law .

4. The asylum seeker shall be informed that he/she is entitled to be accompanied to the interview by an interpreter and a lawyer of his/her choice, on his/her own expenses; as well as that he/she is entitled to receive interpretation in a language he/she comprehends during the interview free of charge, and that female asylum seeker have the possibility to request a female interpreter, pursuant to Article 51 of the present Law. The asylum seeker shall be reminded about his/her right to contact the UNHCR at any time.

Article 50. Guarantees for Unaccompanied and/or separated From the Family Minor Asylum Seekers

1. In cases of unaccompanied and/or separated minor asylum seeker(s) (hereafter: unaccompanied minor asylum seeker(s)) the Designated Body shall immediately inform the Designated body on labour and social issues, in order to assist the appointment of a guardian (custodian) for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.
The designated body shall initiate tracing of the children's parents or any other relatives for the purpose of family re-unification, except in cases when the latter is not in the interests of the child.
2. Designated body on labour and social issues jointly with the Child Protection Units shall initiate the process of accommodating and appointment of guardian for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.
3. When accommodating the children, the Guardianship Bodies of the Republic of Armenia shall ensure the joint residence of minor asylum seekers, who are members of one family, proceeding from the protection of the children's interests.
4. The guardian(s) are obliged to present the interests of minor asylum seekers appropriately during the asylum procedure.
5. Designated Body shall not initiate any steps regarding the asylum procedure without the involvement of the guardian and shall ensure that the interview is conducted pursuant to Article 51 of the present Law, in the presence of the latter and by an officer who has the necessary knowledge and skills for working with minors.
6. All the officials involved in the asylum procedure of an unaccompanied minor asylum seeker in their activities shall follow principle for the protection of the interests of the child.

Article 51. Interview

1. Every asylum seeker, with the exception of family members who have refrained from filing an individual asylum application pursuant to Article 13, Paragraph 4 of the present Law, shall participate in the interview conducted by the Designated Body. The Designated Body can make a decision on granting asylum or recognizing as a refugee without an interview, if in the particular case there is sufficient information for making such a decision.
2. Pursuant to Article 56 of the present Law asylum seekers shall be informed about his/her interview by notification within three working-days after the registration of the asylum application. The notification shall contain information on place, date, time, and other information on the interview. The asylum seekers shall confirm the receipt of the

notification with their signature. Copies of the notification and the receipt thereof shall be filed in the individual file of the asylum seeker.

3. The asylum seeker shall be interviewed by officer(s) of the relevant unit of the Designated Body, who shall fill a complete written protocol on the interview, signed by the asylum seeker. The protocol shall become an integral part of the individual file of the asylum seeker. In case the asylum seeker refuses or is not able to sign the protocol the reasons for not signing shall be recorded in writing and attached to the main protocol of the interview.
4. In case the asylum seeker does not have a sufficient command of the Armenian language, he/she shall be provided, free of charge, with an interpreter by the Designated Body. The asylum seeker may also be assisted by an interpreter of his/her choice on his/her own expenses.
5. During the interview, the asylum seeker may be represented on his/her own expenses by his/her lawyer, who shall be provided with the right to access to the individual file of the asylum seeker and to any information about him/her. The presence of the lawyer shall not limit the right of the asylum seeker to respond to questions personally.
6. A female asylum seeker, upon the request of the latter, shall be interviewed by a female officer of the Designated Body, through a female interpreter if necessary.
7. The asylum seeker shall explain the facts underlying his/her well-founded fear of persecution or human rights violations, and provide the necessary data comprising information on the place of residence, itinerary, stopovers in other countries, asylum claims filed in other countries, as well as any other necessary information for his/her case.
8. Pursuant to the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Individual Data", information received from the interview is confidential and shall not be published. The confidentiality of the interview with the asylum seeker shall be guaranteed by the Law. The UNHCR representative can participate in the interview.

Article 52. Decision Making by the Designated Body

1. The Designated Body with regard to an individual asylum application shall gather all the information provided by the asylum seeker or any other interested party and file it in the individual file of the asylum seeker.
2. The Designated Body within the commenced administrative procedure before reaching a decision shall interview the asylum seeker, verify the facts provided, and complete the necessary documentation, as defined by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

3. The Designated Body shall base its decision on the information contained in the individual file, available information on the country of origin as well as the definition of the term “refugee” and the principle of non-refoulement provided by Articles 6, 7, and 9 of the present Law respectively, if necessary, also apply the exclusion grounds contained in Article 11 of the present Law.
4. The Designated Body shall not make a rejection decision or fail to make a decision on the basis of insufficiency of evidences. The asylum seeker shall be granted the benefit of the doubt for events, which occurred outside the Republic of Armenia.
5. The decision of the Designated Body on recognising an asylum seeker as a refugee shall also include the decision on granting or rejecting the asylum seeker with asylum in the Republic of Armenia. The Designated Body may reject the granting of asylum only in cases stated in Article 11, Paragraph 2 of the present Law and is obliged to inform the asylum seeker in writing about the reasons for not granting asylum.
6. With regard to an asylum seeker who has been already recognised as refugee by any Signatory State to the Convention, the Designated Body shall make a decision only on granting or not granting asylum.
7. The written decision of the Designated Body on non-recognising the asylum seeker as a refugee shall also include the description of the reasons for the rejection of the asylum application, as well as the possibility of applying the non-refoulement principle pursuant to Article 9, Paragraph 3 of the present Law, particularly the permission for deportation of the person to the country of his/her origin or any other country.
8. The decision of the Designated Body shall be sent to an asylum seeker within three days from the date of its adoption. Attached to the decision a written notification is also given which includes a description of further actions of the asylum seeker: in case of a positive decision shall contain information on the legislation regulating issues related to his/her further residence issues in the Republic of Armenia, and in case of a negative decision – necessary information on appealing the decision.

Article 53. Procedures for Exclusion, Cessation and Cancellation

1. In cases, when there is an indication that one of the reasons for exclusion, cessation, or cancellation as defined in Article 7, Paragraph 5, Article 10, Article 11 or Article 12 of the present Law has been established with regard to a refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, the Designated Body shall initiate a cessation or cancellation procedure.

2. The procedures for cessation and cancellation with regard to a refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall follow the asylum procedure pursuant to Article 45 of the present Law, including the right to an interview and the right to appeal against the decision of the Designated Body.
3. During the cessation and cancellation procedures the Designated Body shall not reconsider the applicability of the “refugee” definition criteria defined by Article 6 of the present Law, while making another decision to base on principle of non-refoulement, stipulated in Article 9, Paragraph 3 of the present Law.
4. A refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, for whom a procedure pursuant to Paragraph 1 of this Article has been initiated, shall continue to hold a Convention Travel Document pursuant to Article 30 of the present Law and shall fully enjoy the right to asylum within the Republic of Armenia until the final decision is made.
5. Whenever there is an indication that one of the reasons for exclusion pursuant to Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the present Law has been established with regard to an asylum seeker, the Designated Body shall consider exclusion in the course of the asylum procedure stipulated in the present Section. The Designated Body shall before determining the exclusion grounds, consider Article 6 Paragraph 1 of the present Law.

Article 54. Procedure for Family Reunification

1. Family members of a refugee granted Asylum in the Republic of Armenia enumerated in Article 7, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Law are entitled to refugee status and asylum in the Republic of Armenia, even if they are outside the boundaries of the Republic of Armenia.
2. Persons mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this Article, who reside outside the boundaries of the Republic of Armenia, and intend to join a refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, shall apply to the diplomatic representations and consular department of the Republic of Armenia in a respective country with the request for family reunification. The relevant diplomatic representations and consular department of the Republic of Armenia shall record their application and forward it to the Designated Body.
In the cases of absence of a diplomatic representations and a consular institution of the Republic of Armenia in a respective country, the persons defined in Paragraph 1 of the present Article who reside outside the boundaries of the Republic of Armenia, and intend to join their family member recognized as a refugee and granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, shall apply to the diplomatic representations and consular department of the Republic of Armenia in the closest country with request for family reunification.
3. The Designated Body, in co-operation with the designated body for Foreign Affairs, shall verify the information provided by the applicants and determine whether they fulfil the requirements stipulated in Article 7, Paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Law.
4. If the Designated Body decides that the requirements of Paragraph 3 of the present Article are met, it shall grant refugee status and asylum to those persons on the basis of Article 52 Paragraph 3 and Article 53, Paragraph 5 of the present Law and shall inform about it the

relevant diplomatic representation and consular department of the Republic of Armenia, through the designated body for Foreign Affairs, based on which the latter shall issue the family members granted asylum with valid visa for entering the Republic of Armenia. The Police shall issue them Convention Travel Documents upon arrival to the Republic of Armenia. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*

5. If the Designated Body considers that the requirements of Paragraph 3 of the present Article are not met, it shall make a decision on rejecting the application pursuant to Article 52, Paragraph 7 of the present Law, informing the diplomatic representation and consular department of the Republic of Armenia in the respective country through the designated body for Foreign Affairs. The latter informs the persons who submitted an asylum application. The refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia may appeal the decision of the Designated Body pursuant to Article 57 of the present Law.

Article 55. Suspension, Termination and Reopening of the Commenced Procedure on Asylum Application

1. The Designated Body shall suspend the procedure for granting asylum, if:
 - 1) an asylum seeker does not follow the invitation for an interview pursuant Article 51, Paragraph 2 of the present Law without justified reasons, or refuses to co-operate, so that the Designated Body cannot arrive at a decision concerning the asylum application.
 - 2) an asylum seeker does not approach the Designated Body within two weeks after a notification has been delivered pursuant to Article 56, Paragraph 2 of the present Law.
2. A suspended asylum procedure shall be reopened, if the foreigner concerned produces, in a written communication to the Designated Body, a reasonable explanation for his/her lack of cooperation within three months after the delivery of the decisions to suspend his/her asylum procedure.
3. The Designated Body shall terminate the procedure for granting asylum, if:
 - 1) the asylum seeker in writing withdraws his/her asylum application with the Designated Body;
 - 2) the asylum seeker whose asylum procedure has been suspended pursuant to Paragraph 1 of the present Article does not provide a reasonable explanation for his/her lack of cooperation within three months pursuant to Paragraph 2 of the present Article;
 - 3) there is an adopted administrative or Judicial act concerning the same asylum application of the same asylum seeker.
4. The decision to suspend or terminate the asylum procedure shall be delivered pursuant to Article 56 of the present Law to the asylum seeker within three days.

Article 56. Notification on the Process for Granting Asylum and the Adopted Decision

1. All notifications to the asylum seeker shall be in writing and shall be delivered by the Designated Body in Armenian language or in a language the asylum seeker comprehends.
2. If a notification cannot be delivered to the asylum seeker, the Designated Body shall try to locate the asylum seeker. In case the Designated Body cannot locate the asylum seeker within one month, a note, indicating that the asylum seeker concerned should approach the Designated Body without delay, shall be placed at the last known residence of the asylum seeker.
3. All decisions made by the Designated Body, including decisions on the suspension and termination of the asylum procedure, shall be delivered pursuant to Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present Article, by inviting the asylum seeker through a notification to collect the decision at the Designated Body. If the decision cannot be delivered to the asylum seeker and the asylum seeker, pursuant to Paragraph 2 of the present article, does not apply to the Designated Body within one month after the notification has been delivered the decision shall enter into legal force.

Article 57. Appeal Against Decisions on Asylum Application and Recognition as Refugee

1. Asylum seekers and refugees shall have the right to appeal to the court against any negative decisions issued by the Designated Body to them in the course of the asylum procedure or any other administrative procedure based on the present Law. Appeals may be launched within 30 days after notification on decision.
2. If the deadline defined in Paragraph 1 of the present Article is not met, the decision of the Designated Body becomes final. The period for launching an appeal may be renewed if there are valid reasons, which do not fall within the sphere of influences of the appellant.
3. After the reason (reasons) for missing the appeal period disappears, the asylum seeker can present an appeal to the court within 15 days, but not later than within 3 months starting from the day s/he got acknowledgement of the decision by the Designated Body regarding his/her asylum application.

4. Negative decision of the Designated Body shall include information on the right to appeal and the periods for launching an appeal as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present Article, as well as on applying to respective court.
5. Negative decisions of the Designated Body on asylum application or refugee recognition shall be considered final, if the asylum seeker did not appeal within the timeframe defined in Paragraph 3 of the present Article.

Article 58. Procedures After a Final Decision

1. Police, on the basis of the decision of the Designated Body, shall issue a Convention Travel Document within five working days pursuant to Article 30 of the present Law to a refugee recognized and granted asylum. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*
2. The Designated Body shall extend the Identity Document for Asylum Seekers to a refugee who has been recognised, but denied asylum by a final decision. The extension of the identity document shall be valid for six months. It shall be the responsibility of the Designated Body to ensure, in co-operation with the Police, that a refugee not granted asylum leaves the territory of the Republic of Armenia voluntary or involuntary to a country specified in Article 11, Paragraph 2 of the present Law within six month after the final decision has been delivered pursuant to Article 56 of the present Law to the refugee concerned. If the departure is not possible, the Designated Body shall grant asylum to the refugee and Police shall issue a Convention Travel Document without an additional procedure pursuant to Paragraph 1 of the present Article. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*
3. The Designated Body shall inform the Police within one week, of any final decision confirming that a foreign citizen whose asylum application has been rejected by a final decision, cannot return to his/her country of origin or any other country due to the non-refoulement principle of Article 9, Paragraph 3 and Article 52, Paragraph 7 of the present Law. It shall be the responsibility of the Police to solve the residential status of that foreign citizen, pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. The Designated Body shall ensure that the Police is informed about all finally rejected asylum seekers and refugees not granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, in order to allow them to take the necessary steps, pursuant to the relevant laws of the Republic of Armenia.

Article 59. Subsequent Submission of Asylum Application

1. After making a final negative decision on granting asylum pursuant to Article 52 of the present Law, as well as after the termination of the asylum procedure pursuant to Article 55 of the present Law, a new asylum procedure shall be initiated with regard to every repeated application for granting asylum pursuant to the procedure for granting

asylum established by the present Law. In such cases the asylum seeker shall be granted all rights asylum seekers for the first time are entitled to, in particular to the right stipulated by Article 9, Paragraph 2 of the present Law.

2. The Designated Body shall in the course of the repeated asylum procedure, in particular, when deciding on the recognition as refugee and the granting of asylum, only consider those events and facts which occurred during the previous examination of asylum seekers' application after the last interview of the asylum seeker.
3. The provisions of Paragraph 2 of the present Article shall not apply in cases where a family member of a refugee granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia presents an application of individual asylum or an asylum seeker pursuant to Article 47, Paragraph 5 of the present Law applies for family asylum after his/her own asylum application has been rejected by a final decision.

Article 60. Voluntary Repatriation Procedure

1. Asylum seekers and refugees may apply to the Designated Body for facilitation and assistance with regard to their voluntary repatriation, as defined in Article 4 of the present Law. In that case the asylum seekers shall submit a declaration requesting the termination of the asylum, or declaration renouncing the recognition as refugee.
2. In order to facilitate the voluntary repatriation, the Designated Body shall provide all applicants for voluntary repatriation with available information on the situation in their countries of citizenship and cooperate with UNHCR and International Organization for Migration (hereafter: IOM).
3. The Designated Body in co-operation with the Designated Body for Foreign Affairs, shall assist the persons who present applications for voluntary repatriation to receive necessary travel documents and visa for entering the country of origin or main country of residence or possible transit countries, in accordance with the procedure defined by the RA Government.
4. The applicant for voluntary repatriation shall have the right to withdraw his/her application for voluntary repatriation at any time during the entire repatriation procedure. Until the applicant for voluntary repatriation has left the Republic of Armenia he/she shall continue to enjoy his/her present status as asylum seeker or refugee without any restrictions.
5. After the applicant for voluntary repatriation has left the Republic of Armenia, the Designated Body shall record the voluntary repatriation in his/her individual file, including the decisions on termination of the asylum procedure pursuant to Article 55, Paragraph 3 - in case of an asylum seeker, or cessation of the recognition as refugee pursuant to Article 10 Paragraph 1- in case of a refugee.

6. If an asylum seeker or refugee, who repatriated pursuant to the present article, returns to the country of his/her citizenship or to the country of previous residence and later repeatedly arrives to the Republic of Armenia and requests asylum, his/her application shall be examined pursuant to Article 59 of the present Law.

CHAPTER 5

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Article 61. Adoption of Decision on Temporary Protection

1. For those groups of foreign citizens and stateless persons, who on the grounds defined in Article 6, Paragraph 1 (2) of the present Law left their countries neighbouring the Republic of Armenia and appeared in the territory of the Republic of Armenia or at the borders of the Republic of Armenia, the Government of the Republic of Armenia may make a decision on provision of temporary protection of that persons.
2. The decision on temporary protection shall clearly define the group of foreigners, for whom the temporary protection will be granted in the Republic of Armenia.
3. The decision on temporary protection may be taken by the authorities defined in articles 34 to 37 of the present Law, as well as by the proposal of UNHCR and IOM.

Article 62. Granting Asylum in case of Temporary Protection

1. Foreigners encompassed by the Republic of Armenia decision declaring a temporary protection (hereafter: temporary protected persons) also shall be recognized as refugees and have the same rights and obligations as refugees.
2. Asylum in the Republic of Armenia shall be granted to the temporary protected persons, without undergoing the procedures outlined in Chapter 4 of the present Law. The authorities named in Article 13 Paragraph 2 of the present Law shall not accept individual asylum requests from the persons who fall under temporary protection, and shall inform the latter to apply to the Designated Body immediately.
3. Temporary protected persons shall apply to the Designated Body for registration, which shall open a common file for the whole group, where all individual bio-data, including family composition, are recorded.
4. Designated Body also shall not accept individual asylum applications from the temporary protected persons, but shall check if their data satisfy the criteria of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on granting temporary protection to this group.

5. In case the Designated Body arrives at the conclusion that the person does not fulfil the criteria stipulated by the Government of the Republic of Armenia decision, the person shall be allowed to submit an individual asylum application.
6. In case there are clear indications that the members of the temporary protected group by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia may have committed acts which could warrant an exclusion from the recognition as a refugee, pursuant to Article 11 Paragraph 1 of the present Law, the Designated Body shall consider them as individual asylum seekers and examine possible exclusion reasons in the course of the individual asylum procedure, pursuant to Article 5 of the present Law.
7. The Police shall issue to the refugees granted temporary protection Identity Documents for Refugees Granted Temporary Protection, and then they shall be replaced by a Convention Travel Document. The procedure for the exchange of documents, the specimen of the identity document for refugees granted temporary protection and the procedure of its issuance shall be approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*

Article 63. Cessation of Temporary Protection

1. If there are strong indications that the situation in the country of origin of the group of refugees which received temporary protection has normalised, or, if the national security situation warrants, the Government of the Republic of Armenia may, upon joint suggestion of the Designated Bodies for foreign affairs and national security issues, cease the temporary protection for the particular group concerned.
2. In case of cessation of temporary protection by the Republic of Armenia with regard to the group which received temporary protection, the members of this particular group are no longer benefiting from the rights defined for the temporary protected persons. Persons losing temporary protection have the right to launch an individual asylum application, which will be examined by the procedure for individual asylum, as defined by the present Law.
3. The cessation, as well as cancellation of refugee status and asylum with regard to the members of the temporary protected group shall follow the procedures foreseen in the present Law for refugees, who have received asylum in an individual procedure.

CHAPTER 6

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 64. On the persons forcibly displaced to the Republic of Armenia in 1988 – 1992 and persons granted temporary asylum in the Republic of Armenia.

1. Persons forcibly displaced from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Armenia in 1988 – 1992, as well as those who were granted temporary asylum in the Republic of Armenia, are recognized as refugees and granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia, if prior to the entry into force of the present Law, based on legislation of the Republic of Armenia they received and hold the valid refugee and temporary asylum status holder IDs and their refugee recognition, as well as granting temporary asylum has not been ceased, according to the procedures defined by the legislation enforce prior to the adoption of the present Law.

These persons shall apply to the Police within two years period after the entry into force of the present Law, in order to exchange the refugee and temporary asylum status holder ID with a Convention Travel Document, pursuant to Article 30 of the present Law. Those, who do not manage to obtain the Convention Travel Document within the mentioned deadline, have to undergo the individual asylum procedure defined by the present Law. *(Amended as of 3 March 2011)*

2. Persons forcibly displaced from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Armenia in 1988 – 1992, who prior to the entry into force of the present Law did not receive a refugee ID, mentioned in point 1 of the present article, shall have to undergo the individual asylum procedure defined by the present Law in order to be considered a person who was recognized as a refugee and granted asylum in the Republic of Armenia. *(Deleted as per amendments of 3 March 2011)*

Article 65. Entrance into force of the present Law

1. The present Law enters into force from the tenth day of its official publication.
2. From the moment of entry into force of the present Law the law of the Republic of Armenia “On Refugees” dated 3 March 1999 AL-388 is invalid.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

S. SARGSYAN