# One World, One Nation

A National Repatriation Project

Viken L. Attarian

(translated from the original Armenian of July, 2022 and initially elaborated in December 2020)

# Background

- Driven by the severe existential <u>demographic</u> challenge for the RoA created by the reality of the post 2020 Artsakh War.
- Organized around a set of fundamental ideas with the necessity to build them up into a cohesive framework.
- The goal is to build a single mobilizing vision for the Diasporas with several <u>medium to long term interrelated</u> <u>projects</u> cementing a continuous bidirectional linkage with the RoA (human resources, information, project deliverables, decisions).
- <u>All projects must be definable</u> with concrete high level dimensions (objectives, space, time, resources, method).

# What this initiative is NOT

- 1. <u>An all encompassing roadmap for the RoA to get out of its current situation</u>. There are already several worthy ones being discussed, both publicly and privately, which may or may not be on the agenda of the RoA government. **However, this initiative must be adopted by the RoA government via a nation-centric policy**.
- 2. <u>A fundraising effort to feed some other initiative.</u> Funds will be required, but **the more important issue is to agree upon and understand the common vision that we need to implement.**
- 3. <u>Short term (2 to 5 years)</u>. The results will likely be seen in 10+, or even 15+ years, but the action needs to be initiated now.
- 4. <u>A replacement of the existing Diaspora structures.</u> There is no time for that, plus, they are all welcome to be mobilized around the vision, in defining the projects and in their execution.

# What this initiative IS

- 1. Focussed on the **demographic challenge**.
- 2. Focussed on both <u>qualitative and quantitative aspects</u> of the demographic challenge.
- 3. Medium to long term (10+ years of execution).
- 4. Defines <u>a fundamental framework of projects</u> for the high level objectives.
- 5. Clarifies the various linkages and dependencies of the projects.
- 6. Has sufficient details to initiate actionable and trackable steps.
- 7. Because the challenge is existential, **<u>the bar is set high</u>**. Failure is <u>not</u> an option.

# Drivers for the demographic challenge: why?

- Massive loss of youth (mostly healthy males) in prime family-forming age.
- Large scale depopulation in the expected short term, after the calamitous defeat.
- Economic crisis.
- Fear of renewed hostilities and the potential to be killed in armed conflict.
- Physical insecurity of citizens (especially in border areas).
- Ongoing unresolved systemic corruption being unmasked almost daily.
- A border length that has been multiplied multi-fold with an aggressor belligerent neighboring state emboldened by its victory.
- New state initiatives will need a different kind of scarce human resources (the best in every field).

# The axes of the initiative: what?

- A large scale ongoing project of repatriation from the Diasporas.
- A large scale very focussed family policy for Armenia.
- Subproject structures feeding the main themes of the above two goals.

The ongoing initiative is to define the details of the above through brainstorming, workshops, team structures and so on. The deliverable is a full actionable report within 3-4 months.

#### Repatriation from the Diasporas: Who?

Specific target of family forming demographics (100,000 repatriates in 5 years).

- Males 25 40 years of age
- Females 20 35 years of age
- Married couples of child bearing age or with young children
- 2. Specific target of specialized talent (10,000 in 5 years)
  - STEM field specialists
  - Subspecialists in further targeted industries e.g. military industrial complex, biomedical engineering etc.
  - Agricultural specialists
  - Education specialists (professors, teachers, ed. technologists, curricula developers)
  - State structure specialists (governance, policy, regulatory bodies, regional development)
  - Research institution builders
  - International institutional cooperation specialists in key fields (finance, technology, academic research, industrial research).

# Repatriation from the Diasporas: How?

- Continuously financed professional campaigns in all institutions (churches, community centers, schools, youth organizations, student unions, political organizations, media).
- Treating of all repatriates as true national heroes.
- Ongoing promotion of their efforts and celebration of every single success story.
- Educational programs developed in our schools to the same effect.
- Special recruitment and selection criteria under a new slogan: "Only the best repatriate".
- Create a culture of repatriation towards which all children will strive as they grow up. Convert repatriation into a multi-generational initiative.

# Armenia family policy angles (a set of proposals)

- Ten years with no income tax for repatriates.
- Free university education for families with 2+ children (for repatriates and RoA natives).
- Free housing for families with 3+ children (for repatriates and RoA natives).

# Housing Proposals

3 categories of free (or highly subsidized) housing complexes:

- 1. Villages and agricultural regions will have community housing with access to common farmland. Costs and benefits shared by the self-governed community. Community also organizes and is trained for conscription (*kibbutzim* model).
- 2. Special housing "closed city" complexes built in suburbs and near locations of scientific research and technology facilities with full access to all common modern spaces. The complex includes schools, daycare, shopping, sports, health care and all other amenities (Modeled after the "star cities" of the Russian space program).
- 3. Multi-generational housing complexes with shared facilities (community center, swimming pool and gym, playground and park) for all other repatriates. Multi-generational housing allows young repatriates to convince older generation Diasporans to also repatriate and live close to their families (Modeled after the classical inner-court -puly-housing units of old towns, but with modern amenities).

### Armenia single-parent family policies

- Establish a world class global sperm donor network.
- 100% state-funded artificial insemination for women who want to have children.
- Extend the same benefits of housing and education to single-parent families.

# Economics of the demographic imperative (separate subprojects)

- 1. Funding of housing and related structures.
- 2. Funding of tax holidays.
- 3. Funding of structures in charge of running the repatriation project (both in the Diasporas and the RoA).
- 4. Building of employment facilities and related environment
- 5. Educational institutions and infrastructure for children
- 6. Related other subprojects

The high level evaluation of the above is about US \$ 3 – 3.5 Billion, over a period of 5 years. This is the equivalent approximately \$700M US growth in Armenia's GDP representing an annual economic growth of around 5%, which is significant.