

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. KONSTANTIN O. ROMODANOVSKY
HEAD OF THE FEDERAL MIGRATION SERVICE

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OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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Mr. Swing,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me greet you here on behalf of the Russian Federation and thank you for the opportunity to address today's meeting.

Politicians recognize that the migration issue has become a top issue on the agenda for Governments of the majority of States.

International migration experts describe the current period of time as a migration and humanitarian crisis, or the Great Migration.

Just like the EU, we too are faced with migration flows from the conflict areas.

The number of asylum applications and requests has increased 60 times over the past 18 months.

With a view to streamlining the work with applicants for international protection, we have reduced the length of the asylum granting procedure to 3 days, we have facilitated the procedure of obtaining Russian citizenship, and ensured financial assistance.

The Government of the Russian Federation has allocated 15 billion rubles as financial support to host individuals from the conflict area in Ukraine.

During the 2008 conflict in the Caucasus, we hosted 35,000 asylum-seekers coming in large numbers and on an urgent basis. Last year that experience enabled us to organize our work within the shortest possible period of time.

As a result, we managed to promptly distribute the refugees from border areas to other regions of the country. Regional authorities provided them with accommodation, employment, medical care and access to education. The federal authorities covered the costs of the regions within 2-4 months.

The priority of our activities on the inclusion of foreign citizens in Russian society is not social payments but engaging them in the professional activities.

Totally, we have received 1.2 million people from the Ukrainian conflict area. Over 600,000 of those people expressed their willingness to stay in Russia. They have already obtained documents for long-term residence and work in our country.

Due to the developments in Syria, the number of its citizens who obtained provisional asylum in Russia is approaching two thousand.

We have also granted such status to over 600 Afghan nationals.

I would like to express gratitude to the International Organization for Migration and its Bureau in Moscow, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Russian branch for the assistance they have extended to us during these challenging times.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Russian Federation, just like the majority of receiving countries, considers migration to be a key factor of the economic development.

Ensuring the legitimate rights of migrants is an integral part of fulfilling international commitments undertaken by the Russian Federation.

Nonetheless, ensuring national security is the highest priority in the field of migration.

Thank you for your attention.