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STATEMENT

BY

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ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Russian Federation I would like to greet all the participants of the 107<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration.

Migration governance in the Russian Federation has undergone serious changes this year. According to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation is now in charge of the State migration policy in Russia. The Ministry will continue to fully cooperate with the International Organization for Migration.

Nowadays migration processes have reached an exceptional extent; this fact tremendously increases the role of international and national regulation of the migration processes.

Today the amended version of the Concept of the State Migration Policy of the Russian Federation until the year 2025 is being developed in order to take into account all current changes in the society, economy, international law and other fields.

Russia has a unique migration experience, since it is one of the world's leading states in reception of foreign citizens. Sustainable social and economic conditions of the Russian Federation, the visa-free regime, historical and geographical ties provide for a significant influx of foreigners into our country, primarily from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States who constitute more than 75% of all migrants entering the Russian Federation.

The migration legislation of the Russian Federation provides for a differentiated approach to various categories of migrants. The opportunities for foreign citizens to conduct a lawful labor activity are being expanded. The citizens of the Eurasian Economic Union member-states have access to the labor market without the need to acquire a special work permit. Comprehensive measures were taken to simplify the procedures for acquiring the Russian citizenship. This concerns the foreigners who are entrepreneurs, investors, highly qualified professionals, as well as the foreign citizens who have received professional education in the Russian universities and scientific organizations.

It is important to mention that illegal migration is a serious threat to the States' security and public order and is one of the possible sources of international terrorism and extremist crimes. Therefore the national priorities of the Russian Federation in the field of migration include providing for an effective mechanism of state's enforcement measures against illegal migrants. At present, entry to Russia is closed for over a million people who violated the migration legislation on the territory of Russia.

We would like to note that the Russian Federation carries out all the humanitarian obligations concerning forced migrants. As a result of the internal political conflict in the South-East of the Ukraine more than one million Ukrainian citizens came under the protection of the Russian Federation since April 2014.

Around 250 thousand Ukrainians were granted the refugee status or temporary asylum.

In addition we continue providing proper reception of the citizens of Syria and Afghanistan seeking asylum in the Russian Federation.

We also pay special attention to the social and living conditions of forced migrants, their integration and adaptation into the Russian society.

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation constantly improves the migration legislation, taking into account all our international obligations.

I would like to express my gratitude to the International Organization for Migration, which is an important partner for a wide range of countries in solving difficulties arising in the field of migration.

Thank You for your attention.