

ПОСТОЯННО ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛСТВО НА
РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ ПРИ СЛУЖБАТА
НА ООН И
ДРУГИТЕ МЕЖДУНАРОДНИ
ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ В ЖЕНЕВА



MISSION PERMANENTE DE
LA REPUBLIQUE DE BULGARIE AUPRES DE
L'ONU ET
LES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS
INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE

**94-TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
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**STATEMENT
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UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA**

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation fully associates with the statement made by Portugal on behalf of the EU and wishes to briefly share some observations regarding Bulgarian experience in labour migration management.

Situated on a crossroad of important migration flows and being an EU external frontier, Bulgaria has repeatedly stated on different fora the importance of establishing a mechanism for integrated management of migration processes. Therefore, we highly value IOM efforts to facilitate the orderly and humane management of international migration by providing expertise and promoting global debate and dialogue on migration issues.

In the globalising world economy successful management of migration raises a series of concerns. I would like to focus on the integration of migrants as an important factor for increasing the positive effect of migration. The global redistribution of the labour force is an irreversible process which needs to be managed wisely, in the interest of the countries of origin and destination as well as the migrants themselves. Certainly, the lack of effective management of migration leads to the growth of 'grey economy', increases social tension in host societies, and leads to xenophobia, to humiliation and inhuman treatment and exploitation of irregular immigrants. The integration of immigrants needs special attention at the national, regional and global level, but especially at the local level where it reaches each and every immigrant. The

integration of immigrants is a continuing, dynamic, long-term and two-way process of mutual adaptation.

In order to better face those challenges Bulgaria is currently developing a National Strategy on Migration and Integration of Immigrants which shall lay out the Bulgarian policy direction in this field for the years to come. A high-level inter-ministerial working group has been established in order to formulate coherent national migration policy measures. The working group is chaired by the Deputy-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and includes deputy-ministers and representatives of the social partners.

The Bulgarian labour migration policy builds on data provided by sociological researches on emigration tendencies within the Bulgarian society and the assessed employers' needs of labour force. The recent researches indicate a stable trend of decreasing emigration from Bulgaria while the number of returning Bulgarians is on the rise. Also, in recent years there is a clear trend in ever-growing numbers of EU citizens (i.e. UK nationals) and third-country nationals moving to Bulgaria. This tendency can be explained by the stable economic development, low unemployment rate and good business opportunities.

At a time of strong competition between countries to attract highly qualified specialists, our efforts aim at encouraging the return of such Bulgarian emigrants and the attraction of foreign citizens of Bulgarian origin. We are carrying out a coherent policy on informing the Bulgarian diasporas on the opportunities for work and development of business in Bulgaria through a network of labour and social affairs offices attached to our embassies.

I would like to emphasize our close cooperation with the IOM Mission in Sofia which adds particular value to our efforts for strengthening the administrative capacity, the dialogue between institutions on migration issues, the development of relevant legislation and the improvement of administrative practices. The IOM office in Sofia is a major partner of the Bulgarian Government in providing traffic victims assistance, including the placement in safe houses, their voluntary return and reintegration. It also assists in the capacity building for countering illegal traffic of human beings. The IOM office provides great assistance in awareness raising through carrying out information campaigns on both legal migration opportunities and the consequences of immigration laws violation.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to state our support for the International Dialogue on Migration and our will to contribute to the cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination at all levels on matters of management of labour migration.

Thank you!