



RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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STATEMENT

BY

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In general debate

**101th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Geneva, 29 November 2012

Dear Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

International migration and its challenges nowadays take one of the leading places in the agenda of world policy. Russia attaches great importance to migration issues. As I have mentioned earlier with a view to solve them the Concept of the State Migration Policy of the Russian Federation up to 2025 was approved by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin this June.

This document confirms that migration is an important part of the social, economic and demographic policy of the Russian Federation and migrants play a significant role in meeting demand in employees of the Russian economy.

Humanitarian issues form an important part of the Concept. Its provisions envisage the fulfillment of humanitarian obligations with respect to forced migrants and for the adaptation and integration of migrants through creation of a constructive interaction between migrants and the host community.

One of our legal initiatives rooted in the Concept addresses foreign citizens who reside in the Russian Federation for a long time without proper legal status. They will be granted a permission to settle their residence statute. In accordance with the Concept we will review our approaches to the residence policy and labor migration. We will continue efforts to differentiate labor migration flows and create conditions for legal and regular migration, particularly highly-qualified.

It is well known that an essential flow of migrants come to Russia in a visa-free regime. About 80% of them are from CIS countries. Migration and freedom of movement are essential parts for many integration associations of CIS including Custom Union.

From the other hand among our main priorities is prevention of irregular migration. To do so we mainly rely on the support of information technologies and actual migration data. About 3 million migrants exceeded legally granted duration of stay in Russia. The Russian Government has adopted an initiative which provides such migrants with an opportunity to leave Russian territory within thirty days after their legal duration of stay has expired. If they do not do so our information system automatically prohibits their entry to Russia for three years.

Dear colleagues,

The development of Russian migration policy, in particular the Concept, is conducted with due account of the input and opinions of international and domestic experts and scientists, civil society and diasporas, international organizations including IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to extend my gratitude to H.E. Ambassador W.L.Swing, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, who is a strategic partner for many countries in solving migration problems. Russia highly appreciates activities of IOM, its capacities and capabilities.

Thank you!