

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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STATEMENT

BY

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105th SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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Dear Mr. Chairman,

Dear Mr. Director General,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Russian Federation I would like to greet all the participants of the 105th session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration.

In my brief statement please allow me to outline major trends of the migration policy of the Russian Federation.

In accordance with the Concept of the State Migration Policy of Russia we, on the one hand, consistently widen opportunities for legal residency and labour activity while, on the other hand, strengthen measures against illegal migration.

Possibilities for legal labour migration for foreign citizens are being constantly extended. From the 1st of January 2015 the quota system of work permits for foreign citizens entering Russia in visa-free regime will be abolished. It will be replaced by special labour patents, the price of which will be determined by Russian regions. The introduction of this new practice will allow migrant workers to leave "the tax shadow".

Besides, citizens from the Member-States of the Eurasian Economic Union were granted the right to work without special permissions. At the same time additional measures are being taken to counter illegal migration from third countries. For these reasons the unified registration system of entry of third country nationals and stateless persons into the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States is created. In our practical work we more and more rely upon using information technologies to identify illegal migrants. These instruments

are of great help to reduce time and financial costs which may be used to search and deport these migrants.

What is also important is that now there are more grounds for granting Russian citizenship. Furthermore, the refugee legislation in Russia is being modernized in accordance with international standards and current migration realities. We appreciate the expert assistance from the IOM in this work.

Let me point out that the Russian Federation unconditionally respects and fulfils its humanitarian obligations with respect to forced migrants. Nowadays Russia is facing huge migration flows of Ukrainian citizens fleeing from atrocities in their home country. Since the 1st of April 2014 more than eight hundred thirty thousand of Ukrainians have crossed the Russian border saving their lives and dignity. More than two hundred forty thousand persons applied for temporary asylum or refugee status. The Russian Federation has assigned more than one hundred forty million US dollars for the needs of Ukrainian refugees and asylum seekers. Easier procedure of granting asylum on collective grounds has been introduced. Russian federal and local authorities are doing everything necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainians and to meet their needs with special attention to healthcare, labour and education.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ambassador Swing, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration. This Organization is truly a strategic partner for many countries in finding solutions for problems in the field of migration.

Thank you.