

STATEMENT
**by the Representative of the Russian Federation at the 108th Session of the
Council of the International Organization for Migration**

Geneva, November 2017

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation is the destination country for massive flows of migrant workers and, in recent years, also refugees. In 2016 more than 16 million foreign citizens entered our territory. At the end of that year there were over 9 million foreigners staying in Russia. By the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation the Ministry of Internal Affairs is now in charge of the migration policy in our country. National activities in the field of migration management are based on the Concept of the State Migration Policy approved by the President of the Russian Federation in 2012.

Russian national migration legislation is constantly being improved on the principles of promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms of both Russian and foreign citizens residing in Russia. Special attention is paid to encouraging labour migration through legal channels, reception of refugees and forced migrants and, of course, to their adaptation and integration. However, facing current challenges, we believe that within mixed migration criminals and terrorists should not be welcomed and illegal migration has to be systematically prevented.

The Russian Federation is convinced that we could gain advantages from migration and solve problems related to it only through enhancing international dialogue. A very important area of Russian international efforts to help forced migrants and refugees is political mediation of conflicts and humanitarian aid. Russia actively cooperates on migration issues both bilaterally and multilaterally within the framework of the United Nations and many other international and regional organizations, including, of course, the IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia welcomes the active involvement of the IOM in the preparatory process of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration which is to be discussed and drafted during intergovernmental negotiations in the framework of the United Nations.

We do hope that this future agreement would make an important contribution to the regulation of global migration and create basis for longterm and comprehensive international cooperation in human mobility-related issues. In order to achieve this aim the Global Compact is to take form of a political declaration adopted by a consensus and is not supposed to bear legally binding nature and formal monitoring mechanisms for this would seriously undermine its universality. Of course, it could envisage certain political commitments, a plan of action and the possibility of voluntary self-reporting by States on its implementation. The Compact should not go beyond the issues directly related to its main subject.

In our view, the Compact itself should envisage the importance of the effective management of international migration processes with special attention to adaptation and integration of migrants, well organized engagement of foreign labour, setting additional channels of legal migration, developing interstate legal cooperation and information exchange, emergency preparedness for mass migration influx. In particular, it is to generate a perception that in order to normalize migration adequate control and management of migration flows should be ensured, unlawful acts by migrants prevented, readmission mechanisms established. Every effort should be made to exclude any possibility for foreign terrorists to enter host countries alongside with people who really need help. Migrants must not become a tool of political manipulation by different forces that perform ethnic, religious and social hatred.

Furthermore, the Compact should reflect the idea that finding solutions to problems of massive mixed migration flows, including issues of safeguarding rights of refugees and migrants, could never contradict basic humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Any measures

taken to this end must not impair sovereignty of States and should be implemented only with consent of relevant countries. Reacting to current migration challenges primarily demands prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts being the key reason of forced displacement. It is equally important to contribute to sustainable conditions for peaceful life in the States of mass population exodus and people's return back home as well as to promote human rights, maintain security and bridge development aid with humanitarian assistance.

Thank you for your attention.

**Statement by the Representative of the Russian Federation at the 108th
Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration in
Application of the Right of Reply with Reference to the Statement by the
Delegation of the Ukraine**

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation, not wishing to misuse time for a separate right to reply, has nevertheless to point out that the statement made by the delegation of the Ukraine contained groundless accusations against Russia.

We very much appreciate the constructive, truly humanitarian and productive nature of discussion that is customary for the Council of the IOM. Regretfully during the current session the Ukrainian delegation turned out to be probably the only one that used the debate for fueling politicization and disseminating inaccurate information.

I have to remind that the true root cause of Ukrainian IDPs and massive flows of Ukrainian refugees were crimes committed by Kiev authorities, who have unleashed the internal armed conflict at the southeast of the Ukraine.

The Russian Federation does not control territories of the self-proclaimed Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk. There are no Russian troops there. Ukrainian statements about aggression are not true and represent attempts to justify the detrimental policy of Kiev authorities against their own people, which, in particular, caused massive forced migration.

Russia provides considerable humanitarian assistance to people at the southeast of the Ukraine and has received more than a million Ukrainian citizens, who had to flee their own country.

Thank you for your attention.