

STATEMENT
**by the Representative of the Russian Federation at the 109th Session of the
Council of the International Organization for Migration**

Geneva, November 2018

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation believes that migration may be socially and economically beneficial only when it is safe, orderly, regular and well governed. To achieve this purpose it is important to establish the effective management of migration processes grounded on balanced and coherent national, regional and international policies with special attention to countering illegal migration, preventing entry of terrorists and criminals within migration flows, adapting and integrating migrants, building mechanisms of readmission, developing interstate cooperation, promoting lawful interests and rights of migrants and other aspects.

In light of the need to update the goals, tasks and key priorities of Russia in the area of migration on the 31 of October 2018 the President of the Russian Federation has approved the State Migration Policy Concept for years 2019-2025. This document sets the new strategic vector for the Russian authorities in the field of migration management. In particular the Concept is to create more favorable conditions for resettlement of the Russian speaking compatriots moving in Russia from abroad as well as to make clearer regulations for foreigners to acquire the right to reside and work in our country and to obtain the Russian citizenship. We believe that the new Concept will contribute to making Russia more attractive for migrants and strengthen mechanisms for regulation of migration flows.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia takes the view that international cooperation on migration is one of the cornerstones of the effective migration governance and should involve concerted efforts and coordinated actions of all States concerned with the support of the UN and other relevant international and regional organizations.

The Global Compacts on migration and on refugees to be adopted by the end of this year may become an explicit manifestation of such collective efforts in the field of successful migration management.

While the Compacts are not legally binding instruments, they would enable States - on the basis of their own national priorities and legislation - to be guided by those provisions of the documents that can indeed help them in addressing challenges in the field of migration policy, security, economy and the humanitarian sphere.

Russia welcomes the active involvement of the IOM in the preparatory process of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. We appreciate efforts taken by the Organization to make the phenomenon of migration visible worldwide and mobilize international reaction to its challenges.

The Russian Federation is convinced that international actions related to migration governance would 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 countries concerned.

The most effective way to well established migration governance is to be found through political settlement and prevention of conflicts thus making migration an option but not a necessity and giving people an opportunity not to flee their homes. It's equally important to contribute to sustainable conditions for peaceful life, economic and social recovery in the countries of origin making it possible for refugees and migrants to return.

Mr. Chairman,

In July this year the Russian Federation put forward the initiative to organize safe, voluntary and dignified return of Syrian refugees to their home country that has become possible due to successful actions against terrorist groups and reestablishment of governmental control over the most part of Syria.

The repatriation of Syrian refugees will involve all Syrian citizens into the post-conflict reconstruction of their country, put a barrier against new terrorist activities on the Syrian territory and ease burden and pressure for the receiving States, including those in Europe.

We believe that active international support of the efforts to repatriate and reintegrate Syrian refugees is clearly needed.

Thank you for your attention.