

**STATEMENT**  
**by the Representative of the Russian Federation at the 110<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Council of the International Organization for Migration**  
Geneva, November 2019

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation is the destination country for massive flows of migrants and, in recent years, also refugees. Annually about 17 million foreign citizens come to our country. At present there are more than 11 million foreigners in Russia.

Russian national migration legislation is constantly being improved. Among our priorities in this sphere we can name encouraging labour migration through legal channels, receiving refugees and forced migrants and, of course, protection of human rights of these persons.

However, facing current challenges, we believe 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 with special attention to countering illegal migration, as well as preventing entry of terrorists and criminals within migration flows.

National activities in the field of migration management are based on the revised State Migration Policy Concept for the years 2019-2025, approved by the President of the Russian Federation in October, 2018.

One of the objectives of the Concept is to create comfortable, safe and secure living conditions for Russian citizens at times of massive migratory influx.

Furthermore, this new Concept will contribute to making Russia more attractive for migrants and strengthening mechanisms for migratory regulation. In particular, the Concept envisages that Russia should remain open to foreign citizens considering it a country that meets their economic, social and cultural needs. The rules for entering Russia, as well as acquiring the right to stay and to work in the Russian Federation should be simple, understandable and transparent. Administrative procedures should be streamlined, including through the extensive use of modern digital technologies. More favorable conditions should be created

for the resettlement of Russian speaking compatriots moving to Russia from abroad.

The Concept contains a number of provisions corresponding to the principles and objectives of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. We welcome the active involvement of the IOM in the preparatory process of this Compact. We appreciate efforts taken by the Organization to make the phenomenon of migration visible worldwide and mobilize international reaction to its challenges.

Indeed, international cooperation on migration is one of the cornerstones of effective migration governance. Coordinated actions of all States concerned in this sphere are very important.

The Russian Federation believes that for the most effective addressing of current migration challenges first of all there is a need for a political settlement of conflicts causing forced displacement thus making migration an option but not a necessity and giving people an opportunity not to flee their homes. It is equally important to contribute to social and economic development of the States of mass population exodus as well as to promote human rights, maintain security and bridge humanitarian assistance with development aid.

Russia actively participates in solving migration related problems by providing massive humanitarian assistance in many countries, facilitating the political settlement of crises and receiving and accommodating many migrants and refugees on its territory.

In July 2018 the Russian Federation put forward the initiative to promote safe, voluntary and dignified return of Syrian refugees to their home country. This process is going on. In accordance with the statistics of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees some 200 thousand Syrian refugees have returned since 2016. Obviously, returning Syrian citizens would significantly contribute to the post-conflict reconstruction of their country. Furthermore, the

repatriation of Syrian refugees will ease the burden and pressure for the receiving States.

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

Thank you for your attention.