

**Statement by Ms. Valentina Kazakova,
Head of the Main Directorate for Migration
of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation,
at the High-Level Segment of the 113th Session of the Council
of the International Organization for Migration
(Geneva, 29-30 November 2022)**

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Russian Federation pays great attention to the issue of international migration. As evidence of this, our country joined the International Organization for Migration as a full-fledged member.

We appreciate the work of the IOM and its experience in solving various problems related to the migration agenda. We consider internationally coordinated efforts as a necessary condition for the solution to global migration challenges. In this regard, there is a high demand for the work of the IOM which is one of the most important multilateral platforms for discussing and working on vital aspects of migration-related issues.

We are interested in making use of the potential of the Organization in order to improve the quality of regulation of international migration flows, as well as to form positive and well-balanced international migration agenda. We expect that the IOM will make every effort to effectively respond to the migration challenges, with respect to the common humanitarian principles of neutrality, independence, impartiality and humanity.

According to the UN, the Russian Federation is one of the five countries with the largest number of migrants. About ten to twelve million foreign citizens come to our country every year. The migration challenges faced by

Russia are being resolved on the basis of balanced approaches formulated in Russia's State Migration Policy Concept, which largely corresponds to the goals and objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration supported by our country. In the framework of the implementation of the Concept, measures are taken to improve migration legislation aimed at simplifying the procedure of obtaining documents to reside and work in Russia, acquiring Russian citizenship, as well as to improve control and security mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation believes that the issue of the impact of climate change on migration processes definitely requires a further study conducted on a strictly non-politicized basis. We think that the negative consequences of climate change, while not being the main cause of forced displacement of the population on our planet, nevertheless, in some cases, can exacerbate migration problems and lead to forced displacement.

We are convinced that the Paris Agreement is a reliable basis for a lasting climate settlement. Russia is one of the leaders in the international climate process both in terms of its contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in terms of efforts undertaken to ensure the universal nature of the climatic regime under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We believe that the international community should not ease up in efforts to achieve the goals of the climate agenda. Mobilizing financial assistance and transferring technology to developing countries for climate purposes are the key to ensuring that these countries intensify their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Russia voluntarily provides them with donor assistance in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

Food insecurity, malnutrition and starvation continue to be among the major challenges that humanity is facing. According to UN estimates, currently there is no abnormal shortage of food in the world, but there are serious problems with its distribution and price volatility. Rising prices on world food markets could be a tragedy for most of the least developed countries and provoke waves of migrants searching for a better life.

Russia remains a responsible international food product supplier. Russian grain exports in 2021 amounted to 43 million tonnes. Our country is ready to supply 50 million tonnes from the harvest of 2022 to foreign markets. Russian fertilizers and raw materials for their production are no less important.

We are convinced that the humanitarian tasks of providing assistance to countries in need and reducing the threat of starvation should not be politicized and become the subject of unilateral sanctions. Ensuring unhindered access of Russian food and fertilizers to world markets will make it possible to achieve durable price stabilization, restore the normal functioning of supply chains and solve other problems related to ensuring global food security.

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director General,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that, taking into account Russia's recently acquired status of a full-fledged member of the IOM, we look forward to developing a dialogue on key migration issues at a qualitatively new level. Since Russian is the official language of the UN, we stand for giving official status to the Russian language in the IOM as well.

Thank you for your attention.