

Russian Federation

**IOM Council
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General Debate

Statement by

Representative of the Russian Federation

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**Distinguished Director General Swing,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,
Mr. Chairmen**

Russian Federation supports the activity of the International Organization of Migration. We believe that one of the IOM's strongest points making it an efficient body is the orientation at realization of concrete projects in migration field. IOM has a rather broad mandate, which covers basic aspects of the international migration such as management of migration flows, promotion of appropriate systems and infrastructure, prevention of irregular migration and other negative effects - trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, etc.

We strongly support the IOM's desire to increase coordination with other international organizations and participating governments.

We consider the 98th session of IOM Council to be an important international event, which promotes an open and constructive exchange of views between all interested partners aimed at searching solutions, elaboration of general approaches to the most important problems in the migration sphere.

At the moment international community is facing acute financial and economic crisis. It has started inside the world's major financial centers and consequently spread to the entire world economy. We all observe serious social, political and economic consequences of this crisis especially in the domestic labor market. Millions of people around the world are losing their jobs, incomes, savings and homes which endanger social stability and coherence.

One of the priorities is to support most vulnerable groups of migrants, labor migrants including. We realize the important contribution that migrant workers make to both economies of the countries of origin and destination. We value migrants' work in the Russian Federation, which according to experts adds more than 8% to the gross domestic product.

Taking into account that the Russian Federation is both a source and destination country for international migrants we are interested in continuing the

effective cooperation with IOM, other international organizations and governments in the sphere of migration.

Effective regulation of migration flows for the purpose of stable social and economic development, respect for human rights is one of the basic priorities of domestic and foreign policy of the Russian Federation.

During the recent years migration policy of Russia has transformed into the active one, based on the perspective approach. The country's strategy in migration sphere is aimed at stabilization of demographic situation and domestic labor market, fulfillment of social-economic goals.

Measures aimed to minimalize the effects of global economic crisis undertaken in the last two years allowed to curb unemployment rate, create new jobs especially for young people, to improve the situation on domestic labor market. These measures were applied both on federal and regional levels. By the order of the President of the Russian Federation the Government Commission on migration policy was established. The Commission consists of all interested parties: government bodies, representatives of science institutions and civil society.

We consider a well-managed migration as an effective measure to solve the problems of the economic crisis, which has serious global consequences. Therefore we value the work of IOM aimed to solve the complex problems and to find new approaches in the area of the international migration.

Thank you for your attention.