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STATEMENT

BY

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ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

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Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a great privilege for me to greet the today's conference participants and to thank for the afforded opportunity to address you with the summary of our country's primary approaches to the actual issues in the migration sphere.

With great interest we follow annual discussions at sessions of the IOM Council, which we consider as an important platform for having a constructive dialogue and search for solutions of the most important challenges in the area of international cooperation on migration.

The Global Community, including Russia, views migration as a factor of governmental and public development in the widest sense.

During the years since the collapse of the Soviet Union the Russian Federation has accumulated the unique experience in regulating migration processes. Our country had to handle practically all the forms of migration – immigration, emigration and transit, and to engage in solving of problems of refugees and forced migrants.

At the present time Russia is building up an efficient and balanced system of labor resources attraction and its exchange with our neighbors in the region of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). We are also consistently liberalizing our migration law to form favorable conditions for investing into the Russian economy and transferring innovative technologies.

The consequences of the global financial and economic crisis that have superimposed the known demographic trends both in the Russian Federation and in the leading European states gave the additional impulse to our activities in improvement of the migration strategy.

The first innovation is creation of comfortable and competitive conditions for the recruitment of highly qualified specialists for the purpose of comprehensive

modernization of the Russian economy and development of the Russia's scientific potential.

According to the new migration law of the Russian Federation, those foreign citizens are recognized as highly qualified specialists if they have job experience, skills and achievements in a particular activity and their salaries during the stay in Russia would amount to two and more million rubles for a period of not less than one year .

The competence and the qualification of skills such foreign citizens are evaluated by the employer itself. Meanwhile, any foreign citizen is entitled to make a statement of his skills and capacities as of a highly qualified specialist by filing respective applications with either foreign representative offices of the Federal Migration Service or diplomatic or consular offices of the Russian Federation. In case of a positive solution, a business visa is granted, and an invitation to enter Russia is not required in this case.

Significant benefits are provided to this category of foreign employees, as compared with other foreign citizens involved in labor activities in the Russian Federation, in particular:

- they are untitled to generally established quotas of issue of invitations to entry the Russian Federation and issue of work permits applicable for other categories of labor migrants;
- they are excluded from general restrictions for other migrants regarding duration of temporary stay in Russia;
- work permit may be issued to them for three years. Meanwhile, this duration may be permanently renewed, not in excess of 3 years for each of such a renewal;
- work permit allows an extension of duration of their temporary stay in Russia;
- employer is now entitled to recruit labor without any special permits;

- residence permits are **provided** for this category of foreigners, both for them individually and their family members (the spouse, the children), for the duration of the labor or the civil law contract;
- tax regime of a Russian resident is applicable to them.

One more innovation in the Russian migration law is the creation of the mechanism of patents for individuals from the visa-free region of the CIS, who predominantly carry on the labor activities in the private sector. As a result, with having to pay only about 25 Euros per month, the patent holder enjoys the lawful legal status allowing him to work in Russia.

Today the practical return of this solution is immense quite substantially, during the first five months more than 130 thousand applications for issuing patents have been received.

It is to note that at this time seven tools have been employed in the Russian Federation that contribute to regulation of the migration processes. Among them:

- recruitment of workforce within the standard procedure;
- orderly recruitment of foreign workers;
- establishment of preferences for highly qualified workforce;
- recruitment of qualified labor to work in the Russian Federation without established quotas;
- special procedure of recruitment of foreign citizens who themselves apply for work permits as high skilled employees;
- introduction of patents for foreign citizens from the CIS countries;
- authorization for foreign labor to carry on labor activities in Russia in accordance of international bilateral agreements.

Also, we pay much attention to achieve adaptation of migrants to the new environment and their integration to the Russian society.

Now we consider possibility to organize for foreign citizens trainings of Russian language, Russian migration law and traditions of native culture in cooperation with ethnic, social and religious NGOs.

Cooperation with national communities, using their authority and influence can be an effective means of preventing violations of the migration law and decreasing the level of crimes in the sphere of migration.

In our opinion, the primary tasks in the area of migration, that are now being attained not only by the Russian Federation, but by the global community as a whole, lie in formation of an optimal balance between national and foreign labor resources, a tolerant attitude to migrants in the society, prevention of using negative economic factors to incite racial and inter-ethnic hatred.

Lastly, I would like to say that we highly appreciate the level of cooperation of the Russian authorities with the IOM which we consider as one of the main partners in the area of international cooperation on migration and that enjoys a significant potential and universally acknowledged authority.

We highly value the opportunities that are being opened within the framework of our cooperation with the universal organization in the area of migration, that is the IOM, including exchange of best practices, views on current attitudes to migration management, and the practical activities related to implementation of mutual projects.

Thank you for your attention.