

101th session of the Council
International Organization for Migration
General debate
27-30 November 2012
Remarks by Azerbaijan

Mr. Chair,

First of all, we would like to thank Amb. William Lacy Swing, Director General of IOM for his excellent way of leading the organization forward in these turbulent times. We also thank the Meetings Secretariat for the smooth preparation and organization of the 101th session of the International Organization for Migration.

We are aware of the activities of IOM and its field offices in the field of migration, such as providing assistance to facilitate the effective integration of migrants, mainstreaming migration and various training schemes.

We believe that the issues raised in the General debate will further enhance the mutual understanding between Member States and IOM on the future ways of collaboration and cooperation.

The protection of nation security interests of every country necessitates civic regulation of migration processes along with other several factors. Gradual removal of the existing borders between states, globalization processes and universalization of the global economy, establishment of “unified standards” in lifestyles and behaviors, migration problems have also global character. At the beginning of XXI century in a situation where political, socio-economic, cultural relations expand among states, developed and developing countries are exposed to more serious influence and threats of migration processes. Thus, people unable to find proper job in their country, socially underprovided and with low living standards see the solution in migrating to other countries.

Rapid economic growth and sustainable economic development in the close vicinity of the European economic-financial crisis has increased the role of our country as a place of destination. The return of the Azerbaijani nationals who have left Azerbaijan in the early 90s, as well as the flow of foreign workers has further increased the relevance of much more robust regulation of migration in Azerbaijan. We feel that there is need for strong control of labour market, while illegal arrival of foreign migrants and their unregistered activities in Azerbaijan is intensifying. The State Migration service is taking necessary measures in that regard.

Today, State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan is dealing with issues of extending temporary staying period, granting permission for temporary

residence, admission, revocation, restoration of citizenship, as well as determination of citizenship and refugee status, granting work permit to carry out labor activity and extension of the existing work permit, as well as registration of foreigners, fight against illegal migration.

Migration Information Center which is functioning in order to solve operatively problems arising in migration field, at the same time to review urgent applications and complaints, is very important from the aspect of providing both transparency in migration service activity and providing citizens with necessary information.

Final drafts of “Migration Code” and “Readmission Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan” prepared by the State Migration Service taking into consideration international practice, as well as the relevant legislation of the European Union has been submitted to the Government. This documents are aimed at the improvement of the national legislation and forming unified legislative base in migration sphere and defending rights of citizens living beyond the borders of Azerbaijan Republic.

Education programs of the State Migration Service have been prepared with the aim of studying international practice in migration sphere, improvement of staff preparation policy, professional development of employees and increasing their skills, providing professional preparation of employees newly recruited to service.

Last but not least, as a Permanent Mission we would like once again to assure IOM and its high management of our full availability and readiness for the future cooperation undertakings between IOM and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Thank you for attention.