

**Statement**  
**H.E. Konstantin O. Romodanovskiy**  
**Head of the Federal Migration Service**  
**Russian Federation**

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

Let me welcome you on behalf of the Federal Migration Service of Russia, and thank you for the opportunity to take part in the first Diaspora Ministerial Conference.

It is generally known that contemporary migration – is a complex phenomenon and requires balanced and coordinated decisions, taking into consideration economic, demographic and security factors.

The top leadership of the Russian Federation, the public are carefully following the development of this phenomenon of the 21st century.

The instructions of the President of the Russian Federation on regulating the situation of migration in the country were given to us in his decrees, that were signed virtually on the day of his inauguration.

Russia is one of the world leaders in terms of migration flows.

Every year about 16 million foreign citizens enter our territory, 77 percent out of them - are citizens of the CIS countries.

The uniqueness of migratory activity in the CIS region is due not only to the economy, but also strong cultural ties, and common traditions of our people.

Recognizing a positive impact on host countries and countries of origin of migrants this phenomenon can have a reverse side.

Negative aspects associated with ethnic, racial, religious and cultural differences of migrants from the local population.

The issue of "brain drain", reducing birth rates, single-parent families for countries of origin.

These challenges, unfortunately, are known to all of us.

Dear colleagues,

We note that the role of diasporas in all stages of migration process is increasing every year.

There is a trust to compatriots, their opinion and advices are considered.

Formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian diaspora is one of the largest in the world.

The Russian government is consistently implementing a State Program to Assist Voluntary Resettlement to the Russian Federation of Compatriots Living Abroad.

To date, about 140 thousand people have resettled.

In its turn, on the territory of Russia at all levels a cooperation with national associations of migrants, social organizations and mass media is organized:

- The Council on Interethnic Relations of the President of Russia.
- Public Councils, working with all regional offices of the Federal Migration Service of Russia.

During 2012 my staff held over 3,500 events and meetings with representatives of the diaspora.

Our work is based on policy documents of the Russian Federation - Concept of the State Migration Policy and Strategy of the State National Policy of the Russian Federation until 2025.

An objective need for successful adaptation and integration of migrants in the host society is the formation of a basic package of knowledge about the country, including not only the language, but also other knowledge of legal, social, economic and political nature.

In Russia there are about 250 language courses.

A number of educational programs (manuals, booklets, information campaigns) is designed and implemented not only in cooperation with diasporas, but also in partnership with major religious confessions operating in Russia.

I suppose that this kind of work allows us to address a range of humanitarian issues, reduce the risk of human trafficking.

The social surveys conducted in 2011-2012, have shown that more than 80% of legal migrants who know the language never face negative attitude on the part of the local population and employers.

Migration - is a two way street.

Sharing the responsibility, we share a successful future.

It is important to be engaged in the process and to understand not only migrants themselves and host society, but also the responsibility of the authorities of the countries of origin, transit destination.

In this regard Russia is consistently promoting a system of organized recruitment of migrant workers, which includes pre-migration training.

I believe that active and ongoing dialogue between all actors – is an important part of a comprehensive work to create comfortable conditions for coexistence of Russian and foreign citizens.

Dear colleagues,

This year is special for contemporary history of migration - in autumn 2013 the second meeting of the UN General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development will take place, and one of the contributions to it will be present Conference.

I would like to note that within the preparations for the Dialogue the CIS Executive Committee and IOM held a regional conference on the issue of labour migration in the region.

The joint statement of the participants of the Conference to the Dialogue addresses the issues of integration and adaptation, facilitation of system of organized recruitment of migrant workers.

We welcome the upcoming Dialogue and will continue to strengthen international cooperation in the field of migration, and are willing to share experiences, learn ourselves and teach others.

The potential of our work is far from been exhausted.

In conclusion let me thank you the International organization for migration and congratulate William Swing on reelection as Director General.

I wish the participants of the conference a fruitful work.

Thank you for your attention!