

**Address by Konstantin O. Romodanovsky,
Director of the RF Federal Migration Service,
at the 92nd Session of the IOM Council**

(Geneva, November 28-30, 2006)

Mr. Chairman,

Globalization of the world economy and expansion of commercial and financial links between countries are accompanied by enhanced integration of national labor markets and growing international labor migration.

In today's world, we need to develop common approaches to migration processes. Experience of both individual countries and their associations clearly shows that migration is growing faster than the countries' capacity to manage the migration processes and respond to their implications. It is quite obvious that where these processes are chaotic and uncontrolled, the level of national security decreases, which is an additional argument proving the need for all States to coordinate their migration policies.

In this regard, we appreciate the activities of the International Organization for Migration which has proved itself to be a reputable forum in the field of migration, that makes it possible for all international stakeholders to maintain an active dialogue on migration issues.

Among the advantages of this universal organization we note its emphasis on the implementation of specific projects in the field of migration, which is predetermined by its broad mandate covering all major aspects of international migration, such as management of migration flows, promoting the

development of relevant systems and infrastructure, countering illegal migration and fight against its negative implications (trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation and others).

Account should be taken of both Russian and international experience in regulating migration, which shows that, in an effort to counter illegal migration, states often tend to tighten rules governing legal migration. Usually, such steps have a negative effect: percentage of “illegals” in the total migration flows grows while societies experience such a phenomenon as decreasing tolerance towards migrants, including legal ones. It takes many years to overcome the inertia of this phenomenon.

Russia takes active steps, including within regional processes, to develop modern approaches to find both long-term and short-term solutions to this problem. EurAsEC is creating an international system of organized recruitment and employment of foreign workers. Ideas behind the above-mentioned system and means of their practical implementation in many ways echo the IOM International Migration and Development Initiative, including in terms of gathering information on foreign labor markets, creating data bases and registering potential migrant workers, assisting in applicants selection, etc.

Currently, the Russian Federation is drafting a task program entitled “Regulation of qualified labor engagement in the Russian Federation” which provides, *inter alia*, for the development of an automated integrated labor market exchange of the Russian Federation, responsible for maintaining a data base on labor demand in Russian economy and rendering legal and practical assistance to migrant workers in finding employment in Russia.

In order to better manage relevant activities within the CIS, steps are being taken to establish a migration coordination council of the CIS Interstate Parliamentary Assembly.

We lay special emphasis on the development and improvement of the national legislation governing migration. In doing that, taking into account

growing globalization of international migration, we consider it necessary to try to harmonize the approaches of all international stakeholders to those activities. We proceed from the assumption that multilateral and bilateral instruments and arrangements remain the legal framework for regulating migrational relations, while the leading role belongs to regional processes.

In this connection, we appreciate, on the whole, the outcome of the UN GA High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held on 14-15 September 2006 in New York, that defined the keynotes of cooperation in the field of migration for the near future.

In this context, the IOM conceptual document entitled "International Migration and Development Initiative " aimed at optimizing the global social and human development potential in the field of labor migration and providing reference points for international cooperation in this field, deserves appreciation.

Conceptual ideas suggested by IOM are positively oriented and imply the need for international standardization and harmonization of approaches to developing a mechanism that would make it possible to strike a balance between demand and supply on the world labor market. The Russian Federation is prepared to take an active part in discussing and finalizing this concept's provisions, as well as in developing a mechanism for its implementation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Выпускающий:

(А. Андреев)