

**Statement**  
**H.E. Anatoly A. Fomenko**  
**Deputy Head of the Federal Migration Service**  
**Russian Federation**

Ambassador Swing, Distinguished delegates.

Ladies and gentleman!

It is a great pleasure to welcome you today on behalf of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation. Let me express gratitude for the opportunity to participate in today's conference.

The role that Diasporas play in our contemporary world is growing each year. Their influence is particularly evident in a migration sphere. No wonder that the International Organization for Migration included issues of communication with Diasporas within the discussion of the present Ministerial conference.

Contemporary Russia is a state which attracts an increasing number of migrants each year. Last year alone, almost 16 million foreign citizens arrived in our country.

A considerable part of these migrants enjoy visa-free entry into Russia. This case determines the specific character of the migration process in our country.

The afore-mentioned category of migrants face some difficulties in adequate integration in Russia, therefore they do not have enough access to social benefits that are available to Russian citizens.

The efforts aimed at integrating large groups of migrants into the socio-cultural environment of Russia proved that the effectiveness of this work largely depends upon the participation of national Diasporas.

The Diaspora usually provides initial support to its compatriots, who are seeking employment and accommodation in unfamiliar countries. It helps them to settle down, to acquire knowledge and gain skills necessary for a normal life in a new place.

At present there are approximately 20 large national Diasporas of foreign citizens in the territory of the Russian Federation. They have their regional offices in many regions of Russia, as well as in other countries.

The Federal Migration Service of Russia co-operates with more than 1600 regional offices which represent the interests of Diasporas in all regions of our country.

It was the Diasporas Leaders' initiative to create Centres of Social Adaptation for Labour Migrants in several regions of Russia.

Labour migrants may study the Russian language, Russian laws and national historical and cultural traditions while staying in Russia. They may also improve their professional skills as well.

Our foreign partners from the Commonwealth of the Independent States acknowledge the necessity and importance of the work done with the national Diasporas.

In 2012 the migration agencies of our countries developed a joint project determining the main stream of co-operation with Diasporas and migrants' adaptation to the specific conditions of the recipient countries.

We greatly esteem fruitful contacts with the international organizations in matters of integration and co-operation with Diasporas.

The Federal Migration Service established co-operation with the International Organization for Migration, as well as the information exchange and a dialogue with the Human Rights Watch. And we fulfill joint projects with the International Red Cross.

At present we have ongoing consultations with the International Organization for Migration in the sphere of development of joint projects concerning adaptation of migrants, including a linguistic program and informational support of foreign citizens.

I would like to use this opportunity to express gratitude to the Moscow Bureau of the International Organization for Migration for its informational and methodological guidance on integration issues.

Dear colleagues!

We consider that a society that needs labour migrants should take care not only of its own well-being and security, but also to create comfortable conditions for foreigners staying in Russia.

We hope that taking into consideration with international experience we shall build an effective integration system that will protect and combine the rights and legal interests of migrants as well as the rights and legal interests of the Russian population.

It is particularly important in this activity to lean upon the joint efforts of the state and civil society which also includes national Diasporas.

Thank you for your time and attention!