

Dear sirs!
Colleagues!

First of all I would like to thank you for the invitation to participate in such a representative conference of the International Organization of Migration. Questions which are being discussed here have special value for Russia because of two reasons:

- 1). Russia is the huge territory which in many respects needs to be rendered habitable and equipped, enormous natural and economic potential.
- 2). The limited human resources.

The internal possibilities of a labour market are not sufficient for stable economic growth. The problem is redoubled by the uneasy internal demographic situation and the active outflow of qualified employees from Russia.

Thousands of Russian legal entities involve a foreign labour annually. Last year over two million citizens of other states legally worked in Russia. Including, more than 1.8 million – from the CIS countries. They transfer more than 8 billion dollars of the earnings from Russia to homeland annually.

The new migratory legislation which has come into force in 2007 of Russia became more liberal, it has a notifying character. It has considerably helped to improve attraction of foreign workers. The quantity of legal migrants stably increases. These persons represent the basis of returnable labour migration.

However behind these figures are processes of illegal labour migration, much more significant, which cause a damage not only to economy of the countries – donors and recipients, but also socio-political stability, and also put migrants in a disfranchised and vulnerable position. Illegal migration promotes corruption and prosperity.

This circumstance complicates influence possibilities on return migration.

We consider that the solving of this problem can be only system-defined, exactly:

- Active participation of state and civil structures in solving these problems.
- International (bilateral and multilateral) cooperation in questions of migration on state and public level.
- Cooperation of the state and nongovernmental organizations with diasporas and business structures.
- Active regulating influence of the state and a society on migration processes.

At the best each citizen, who wants to work in Russia, should have possibility to receive beforehand full trustworthy information about living conditions and work, about vacancies, in case of need to receive professional training, to learn language, to have adaptive training etc.

Coming to Russia, the migrant should receive assistance in necessary documents legalization, registration and employment.

The major sphere of the private-state partnership is maintenance of social and labour conditions for labour migrants in Russia, creation of their rights protection mechanisms. In particular it is a creation of centres, evening schools, courses, legal protection systems for migrants in Russia. Exactly like European Union created processing centres.

At last, it is an assistance in departure of migrants then they conclude their contracts.

Dear colleagues!

The Fund has a certain experience in cooperation with the state and non-governmental organizations in migration questions.

The Fund realizes the program "Good neighbours" together with variety of the non-governmental organizations of Russia and neighbouring countries. This program assists different kinds of dialogue communications, the cooperation of the civil society structures, professional, business, public, cultural, creative, family, youth, educational, scientific exchanges of people.

Actually, the development of such an out-of-bloc form of relationship between countries and nations is exactly the form good neighbours which is so essential now. It is an important step towards popular diplomacy expansion.

One of the sections of the program "Good neighbours" is cooperation between civil non-governmental organizations and state structures in the field of work migration. A good example of this work is the Cooperation agreement which has been signed by Russian Federal Migration Service and the Fund.

In this connection, opening of the first Interregional Assistance Center to migrants in Samara is an important milestone in the private and state partnership development.

What's the essence of this project?

The Center renders full assistance to people who come to Russia to work. It was created for the welfare of the labour migrants, not against of them.

The Centers provide various services:

- Juridical assistance (Documents legalization);
- Medical express-examination with posterior delivery of necessary medical references;
- Providing of a complex of services in sphere of employment, social and other services;
- Assistance to work migrants in applying for permission to work;
- Placing transit migrants at the hotels;
- Language training;
- Money orders;
- Supplying migrants with temporal accommodation;
- Providing access to administration of justice;
- Migrant rights defense;
- Legal advice;
- Air and train tickets booking;
- Information about Russian legislation;
- Access to TV and other electronic mass-media, including ones that broadcast on a native language of migrant;
- Access to mobile telecommunication under the lower tariffs
- And the most important thing. The whole complex of services will allow to provide civilized process of return migration.

In a few words, the Centre will help to prepare necessary papers for legalization. The Center will provide access of migrants - including illegal ones - to administration of justice. And, that's very important, it will help migrants to find a job.

It will benefit both migrants and employers, as well as our countries. Actually, it is a new step towards cooperation of the Post-Soviet states in solving an extremely important and critical problem which worries both Russia and its neighbours.

We consider that similar Centers will be opened also in other places of the most intensive transit and a congestion of migrants – in Astrakhan, Orenburg, Novosibirsk, Barnaul. In the future the network of the similar Centers will extend and will include such cities, as Moscow, Saint Petersburg etc.

We are going to continue development of our non-governmental branches in CIS countries.

Representative offices of the Fund provide the following services:

- Information about employers and vacancies.
- Preliminary preparation of the necessary documents for those migrants who are going to Russia.
- Information about legal regulation of their stay in Russia.
- Information about addresses of the Multifunctional interregional centres in Russia.

We are firmly convinced that such multipronged and contradictory phenomenon as migration can become the positive factor for the development of single states and human community as a whole only in the context of good-neighborly relationship.

This mode permits to establish an effective cooperation between all interested governmental and non-governmental organizations, to minimize illegal forms of migration, to provide protection of the migrant's rights and interests, to create normal and benevolent atmosphere round this problem.