

*Statement by Mr. N. Mammadov  
Deputy Minister of the Labour and  
Social Protection of Population of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
at the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of the  
International Organization for Migration*

**Dear Mr. Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me start by congratulating all participants of the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Organization for Migration which is one of the most productive and effective organizations dealing with the issues of migration both at the national and international level in whole. The topics discussed at the session confirm commitment of the International Organization for Migration to the issues specified both in fundamental tools of the organization and in programs and projects implemented in the course of 60 years.

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you on the current situation of labour migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the activities performed by us to manage it.

Rapid economic development of the Republic of Azerbaijan has had a significant impact on labour migration as well. Hence, if in early 90s there was a mass migration of the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan to foreign countries now return trend of those who had left the country is observed. At the same time there is a growth in the rate of foreign migrant workers coming to Azerbaijan.

Currently, we give much attention to protection of the rights of citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan working in foreign countries, ensuring their social protection as well as regulation of involvement of foreign citizens in labour activities in our country in the line with international legal standards.

In order to protect the rights of migrant workers a stress is made to signing bilateral inter-governmental agreements on cooperation in the field of labour migration. At present, such agreements had been signed with Ukraine, Byelorussia and Moldova. Furthermore, a similar agreement with the Russian Federation had been drafted which is to be signed soon.

Dynamic social and economic development of the Republic of Azerbaijan attracts foreigners to the country. There were relevant preventive actions taken in view of the growth of labour migration which is expected in the forthcoming years and considering the importance of protecting the rights of migrants and domestic labour market.

Taking into account the significance of labour migration issues for the Republic of Azerbaijan, steps were taken to improve relevant legislation in the first instance.

These steps mainly aim to improve labour migration regulation based on the international practice, provide efficient use of local labour force and prevent involving foreign work force unless required, create a mechanism of obtaining information on the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan working abroad as well as protect the rights of migrant workers in accordance with the international legal standards.

Furthermore, for the purpose of preventing illegal labour migration adjustments were made to the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the size of penalties imposed on employers for illegal employment of foreigners was increased.

The undertaken actions has led to the increase in the number of employers willing to legalize the relations with migrant workers employed by them.

One of the most critical steps taken to develop a management system of migration regulation was a Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On application of “One-stop shop” principle in the regulation of the migration processes” dated March 4, 2009.

The introduced Decree gave effect to management of migration processes through more flexible and effective mechanisms, ensuring responsiveness in this field and elimination of a number of problems to be addressed.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan is primarily focused to give certain powers of regulation processes to one authority, i.e. the State Migration Service, responsible for legality and timeliness of the made decisions, issuing relevant permits and documents to foreigners and stateless people who intend to live and work in the Republic of Azerbaijan and have legal grounds for it.

The Migration Code has been drafted with an aim to establish an integrated legislative framework on migration which also improves the legislation in this field. The draft was agreed with the relevant authorities and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Azerbaijan ratified the United Nations’ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on December 11, 1998 and signed a “Cooperation agreement in the field of labour migration and social protection of migrant workers” in the frame of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We closely cooperate with the relevant international organizations, particularly the International Organization for Migration, the Council of Europe and International Center for Migration Policy Development as well as the corresponding UN institutions to study the international practice and expand relations. In drafting and

implementing programs and projects in the field of labour migration recommendations of these international organizations are taken into account.

**Dear ladies and gentlemen,**

The migration policy implemented by the Republic of Azerbaijan shows that the Government efforts aiming to develop social and economic market economy produce tangible outcomes. However we believe that only integrated and interrelated actions designed to address the problems of migration can produce real outcomes both in a separate country and in the entire world. With this regard I would like to emphasize the need in new approaches in cooperation in the field of migration at the regional and international level when ensuring the balance of interests of all parties is acquiring more importance.

To conclude I would like to wish successful and fruitful work to all participants of the present session.

**Thank you for your attention!**