

**Statement by
H.E. Kairat Umarov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the 100th session of International
Organization on Migration on the occasion of 60th Anniversary
of the Organization
(Geneva, 5-7 December 2011)**

**Distinguished Mr. Director General,
Distinguished Heads and Members of delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To begin with, I would like in behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to express appreciation to Mr. William Lacey Swing, Director General of the International Organization on Migration for the invitation to take part in its 100th session and congratulate the organization on its 60th anniversary.

Migration is rightly considered as one of the global phenomena of the modern world. Around 200 million people live today outside their home country that is 3 percent of the entire world population which means that every 35th person of the planet is a migrant.

The International Organization for Migration is bringing an important contribution to the global regulation of migration processes and to the solution of its burning problems. It enjoys a well deserved respect among all the countries of the world.

The issues regarding migration flows management have a special significance for the young countries of Central Asia.

The scope of migration flows in the region, problems of illegal migration like human trading, refugees as well as illegal trafficking in drugs, threats of

terrorism make it imperative to improve measures aimed at regulating migration and place those problems among most urgent for our states.

The Government of Kazakhstan makes every effort to create favorable conditions for skilled workers desirous to move in our country. Every year a quota is set that is designed to attract foreign manpower. Quota allows to favorably regulate and distribute needed foreign workers with due attention paid to the conditions at the labor market.

Taking into consideration the growth of migrants arriving from abroad Kazakhstan is taking measures directed toward expanding legal basis of cooperation with international partners both on bilateral as well as multilateral foundations.

As of today, Kazakhstan has ratified 16 conventions of the International Labor Organization and a number of conventions in the field of human rights including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights. We are a Party to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and to its 1967 Protocol.

At the regional level, the Republic of Kazakhstan has joined multilateral agreements within the CIS framework and has concluded bilateral agreements with Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Unfortunately, **the plight of the refugees** remains troubling for the countries of Central Asia. There are around 10,000 refugees in the region.

Our country is leading in the numbers of refugees. During the years following its independence Kazakhstan gave refuge and protection to more than 15,000 people. We are closely cooperating with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in our attempts to settle the problems of the refugees.

Using the Convention on the Status of Refugees as our basis we elaborated the Law “On Refugees” that was passed in 2010.

Speaking about migration in our region a special mention deserves the issue of **stateless persons**. Following the collapse of the former Soviet Union the new independent states of Central Asia found themselves face to face with the problems of state succession and border demarcation that led to unprecedented growth in domestic and external migration.

Our country is very active in the work aimed at solving problems of the stateless persons. Suffice it to say that in the last 10 years we succeeded in reducing in half the number of stateless people that arrived in Kazakhstan from countries of the “far abroad”.

There is a marked tendency today in the country toward further reduction in the numbers of people of this category.

Another phenomenon typical to the migration in all countries of Central Asia is the cross border **human trafficking**. Because of their strategic position in the intersection between Europe and Asia most of the Central-Asian countries are being used by the human traffickers as countries of supply and transit.

Kazakhstan is very active in the struggle against trade in human beings. The Government has set up a powerful Inter-agency Commission that directs the struggle against illegal export, import and trade in people. The Government has also adopted a 2012-2014 Action Plan designed to prevent human trafficking and fight against it. Cooperation with the countries of the “near and far abroad” is being strengthened while the legal and treaty basis of cooperation is being expanded both on the bilateral and regional levels.

We are convinced that only coordinated actions of the international community are capable of putting an end to the human trafficking.

Mr. President,

Kazakhstan highly evaluates the role that the **International Organization on Migration** plays in the development and management of migration processes and in helping migrants in Kazakhstan and in the region as a whole.

With the active support of IOM Kazakhstan has begun work on improving its legislation in the field of migration. On the 22nd of last July a new law was passed titled "On migration of the population" that was elaborated in conformity with the international experience and with commonly recognized world standards.

Migration problems are soluble and can be successfully tackled if there are open dialogue, strong cooperation and coordination at bilateral, regional and global levels.

It is important to develop cooperation among the countries of the region within the framework of the existing integration organizations such as the CIS, EurAsEc, CSTO, SCO, CICA.

In the context of the development of regional cooperation I wish to emphasize the successful completing in last March in Almaty of the joint UNHCR and IOM regional conference on protection of refugees and on international migration in Central Asia. The forum adopted a Declaration that envisaged the establishment of the Regional Framework body that would bring together all the interested stakeholders – governments, international organizations and NGOs,

Considering that the issues of migration management will remain on the priority list in Kazakhstan's and its neighbors' agendas we intend to be active partners of IOM in the region and to expand our joint actions in all directions in the sphere of migration.

Thank you for your attention.