

Kyrgyzstan Delegation

Speech on the 100th Session of the Council, IOM
(Geneva, Switzerland from 5 - 7 December 2011)

Dear Mr. President,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me on behalf of the Government of Kyrgyzstan congratulate the IOM and personally the Secretary General of IOM, Mr. William Lacy Swing, with its 60th anniversary and wish prosperity, successful implementation of new projects and likely years of work. I take this opportunity to reiterate my gratitude to IOM for assistance in solving practical problems of migration management in Kyrgyzstan, in identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking, Kyrgyz citizens abroad, as well as for ongoing coordination and support for migration policy in our country.

The Kyrgyz Republic highly appreciates the work of IOM in the field of protection of migrants' rights, and attaches great importance to the strengthening of comprehensive cooperation with it.

Dear Mr. President,

A growing number of countries are involved in the orbit of global migration and participate in international exchange of human resources. International labor migration has become an integral part of the modern world economic system, a normal way of existence for most of the states. I would like to mention a great public importance of migration as a conduit for the market relations and a catalyst for integration of citizens of certain countries in the international labor market. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic attaches great importance to foreign labor migration and its potential benefits for both countries of origin and those of destination, as well as to strengthening the protection of the rights of migrants-workers. As a country of origin of migrants and being aware of both the labor import and export value for the economies, Kyrgyzstan is interested in legal protection of its citizens abroad.

I would also like to note that a distinct state migration policy is being built up and implemented in a constant interaction between government agencies, partner NGOs, media and international organizations in Kyrgyzstan. This policy is based on the admittance that migration is an objective process that makes our main task to extract the maximum benefit for both the

individual and a society as a whole.

Dear Mr. President,

As a dynamically evolving phenomenon, migration has a significant impact on the socio-economic development of Kyrgyzstan where a continuing outflow of capable and trained people leads to loss of the demographic potential. In this regard, the Kyrgyz Republic is facing a number of related issues, primarily connected with protection of legitimate rights and interests of migrants and their families in countries of destination. Therefore the Government of Kyrgyzstan is currently taking certain measures to form an international treaty basis on labor migration, consult and inform workers of their rights, create diasporas, cultural centers and render legal support.

Dear Mr. President,

Kyrgyzstan fully supports the IOM's programs and projects aimed at developing and improving the understanding of migration and recognition of contribution of migrants. We attach great importance to the role of IOM, which upholds the principle that labor migration should be an integral part of any national employment policy and promotes a single principle for sending and receiving countries, namely, providing citizens with a decent work at both local and international labor markets.

As migration affects stability and security of the country and region, the Government of Kyrgyzstan actively participates and contributes in multilateral cooperation and solution of spectrum of problems through such organizations as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). These organizations bring together states, which in varying degrees serve as receiving or sending countries.

In bilateral cooperation, great attention is paid to the main migration partners, such as the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, to develop with them international agreements, create a civilized system of employment opportunities abroad, strengthen border control, protect the rights and freedoms of migrant workers, raise legal awareness, train potential migrants, and to effectively use remittances.

Dear Mr. President,

Reaffirming the commitment to fundamental principles and norms of international law,

our Government is taking all necessary measures to protect the rights of all categories of migrants, assisting internally displaced persons and refugees, voluntary immigrants of ethnic Kyrgyz coming from abroad and people seeking citizenship in our country.

Given that in Kyrgyzstan, migration has become an economic component of development, we intend to further improve the state migration policy, and look forward to the experience of the international community and the continuing assistance and cooperation with IOM. In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that Kyrgyz Republic intends to continue to provide all possible assistance to the IOM and its functioning in our country.

Thank you.