

*Check against delivery*

**Statement presented by the Head of the delegation of the Russian Federation at the 90-th session of the Council of the International Organisation for Migration**

(Geneva, 29 November – 2 December 2005)

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Russian delegation it is an honour and privilege for me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau with the election and express our confidence that under your guidance the present 90-th Session of the International Organisation for Migration will make a substantial contribution to finding solutions to migratory problems of the world.

Now that it becomes evident today, none of the migratory problems at the global level could be solved without the properly functioning policy coherence on migration issues jointly elaborated by sending and receiving countries, competent international agencies, NGOs and with the help of other stakeholders such as business community, civil society, migrant associations and others. In this regard IOM becomes an unique international organisation that greatly facilitates the migration policy coherence at the global level and simplifies the fruitful co-operation between the interested parties.

Mr. Chairman,

The modern ever-globalising world of the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century inevitably leads towards the large-scale international migration, when millions of people throughout the world seek new places to live and work in order to make their lives better.

Therefore, the modern international society faces two extremely important interrelated issues that arise from this phenomenon. These problems are managing regular and combating irregular migration in the context of finding an effective migration policy at global and national levels.

First, we should address the irregular migration issue.

Being unsettled, this problem poses serious humanitarian, social, economic, political, ethnic and demographic problems, threatening the stability of States and regions and severely endangering the States' national security. In our opinion only well co-ordinated efforts of main actors, such as governments of sending and receiving countries and international organisations, should be able to effectively confront this ever-growing threat. It is no secret for any civilized person that the illegal migration provides an extremely fertile ground for terrorism and international crime in general, and no country alone is capable of withstanding neither illegal migration *per se*, nor international crime. However, even this immense threat could be subdued, provided that the countries themselves manage to solidify the measures taken at the national level and bring them coherently to the international arena.

At the same time, any migration policy should necessarily imply a clear and efficient integration policy. In our opinion it is the responsibility of the receiving societies to help immigrants to become part of that society, to provide them with enough possibilities to study receiving country's language, traditions, culture, and to encourage them to do so, etc. On the other hand, without its vital integration component whole migration policy of a State is most likely to strengthen the illegal migration and to create separated communities based on the country of origin, language or religion of the immigrants.

Unfortunately, as practice shows, we sometimes become involuntary witnesses to an occasional failure of the whole migration policy of one State or

another, which did not provide for the efficient integration measures.

Mr. Chairman,

With the constantly growing number of foreign nationals entering the territory of the Russian Federation annually, illegal labour migration and the related processes become long-term factors that substantially affect the economic, socio-political, demographic and criminal situation in the country, and hence require urgent action on behalf of the Government. However, as we are currently facing an evident shortage of labour force, instead of undertaking numerous punitive and deportation measures, we might resort to granting legal status to those undocumented *bona fide* migrants, who are willing to continue with their labour activities on the legal basis, but due to some reason are unable to address our authorities themselves.

In this regard, we are currently preparing the legalisation of migrants lacking legal status on the territory of the Russian Federation, the so-called "migration amnesty". This is an exceptional *ad hoc* measure scheduled for the year of 2006 and it would concern about 1 million of migrants from the CIS countries.

Mr. Chairman,

We highly value the role IOM played during the ten years process of the 1996 Geneva Regional Conference on the Problems of Refugees and Other Migrants in the CIS Countries. We would like to thank IOM for the help and co-operation provided to the Russian Federation in order to fulfill the Programme of Action of the Conference to the fullest extent, as well as we would like to thank all our partners with whom we shared common goals in finding durable solutions to the migratory problems within the scope of the

whole Conference process. However, in order to find durable solutions for the remaining problems we should continue our work started in 1996 persistently and purposefully.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me express hope that the present session of the International Organisation for Migration, as well as previous ones would give a new impulse to the future development of the co-operation between the Russian Federation and the IOM in accordance with the requirements of our time and new tasks in the field of migration.

Thank you, Mr.Chairman.