

Labour migration and its regulation

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues!

Migration in the world has a global character and puts objectives the successfulness of many of which, could improve the social-economic development of the country, improvement of livelihood, territorial integrity and national security. An effective management of migration processes requires coordination of efforts by the governments and civil society.

Labour migration from Tajikistan to Russian Federation, Republic of Kazakhstan and other foreign countries is a part of global process in the modern world. Due to the high numbers in migration, on 28 November 2001 Tajikistan has ratified the International Convention of Protection of Rights of All Labour Migrants and Members of their families accepted by UN in December 1990. The Republic of Tajikistan has signed an agreement of cooperation in the sphere of labour migration and social protection of labour migrants within CIS and also cooperation in the struggle against illegal migration.

In December 1999, Tajikistan passed a law “On migration”, approved a concept paper on the governmental policy on migration and a concept paper on migration of Tajik citizens abroad. A governmental Programme on External Migration was accepted for 2003-2005 and also a new Programme on external migration of Tajik citizens for 2006-2010 was passed in December, 2002.

In April 2004 a President’s Decree “About strengthening of struggle against illegal migration in Tajikistan”, a governmental resolution of Tajikistan “About approving the Regulation on mechanisms of immigration control”, and also a new Programme on external migration of Tajik citizens for 2006-2010 were adopted.

The Tajik government’s policy in the sphere of external labour migration is mainly aimed on prevention of increase of illegal migration based on establishment of legal base and economic mechanisms for regulating migration process. The creation of a unified system of labour migration together with accepting countries and involvement of local administrations was also foreseen.

In order to ensure legal and social protection and creation of favorable working conditions of labour migrants, taking into account of the situation in the job market, an Agreement “About working activities and protection of rights of Tajikistan citizens in Russian Federation and Russian citizens in Tajikistan” was signed in October 2004. Similar agreements were signed with Republic of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. A Programme on cooperation in the sphere of labour exchange between Tajik government and Government of Moscow city of Russia was adopted. Working groups were established in the frames of this programme from both sides. The Memorandums were signed between administration of Sughd and Khatlon Regions of Tajikistan and Orenburg, Volgograd, Krasnodar and Altay regions of Russia about labour activities.

In accordance with the planned course of action in the labour migration regulation policies and protecting rights of labour migrants, there was a draft agreement between two countries, developed and sent for review of the Government of Russian Federation “About cooperation in the sphere of social insurance”.

The actuality and importance of the taken steps is supported by the fact that more than half a million Tajik citizens migrate out of the country as labour migrants. Most of the work in the territory of Russian Federation, therefore the Tajik Embassy in Russia organized a Group for

work and assistance with compatriots. A representative office of Tajik Ministry of Interior was opened in Russian through the Governmental resolution of Tajikistan that deals with migration issues and protects their rights.

The issues connected with labour migration were transferred from the Tajik Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to the Tajik Interior Ministry through a Presidential Decree #9 on 30 November 2006 "On improvement of the structure of the central bodies of power in Tajikistan.

Realization of the constitutional rights of citizens for labour and their social protection foresees creation of jobs, including economic activities outside of the country by regulating external migration.

There are more than 500 thousands labour migrants, Tajik citizens, working in Russian Federation. Out of them: 43,0% work in construction sphere; 11,6 % in agriculture, 34,4 % in trade and services; 8,4 % in food industry; 1,5 % in transportation; 1,2% in education and health.

The total number of Tajik labour migrants in Kazakhstan is about 40 thousands people and Kyrgyzstan – 2 000 people.

The necessity of external labour migration is also dictated by the interest of foreign currency flow into the country's economy.

In order to improve the conditions of money transfers for migrants the rates were decreased from 30 to 3 percent of the sum. This fostered the increase in population's savings and increased the rate of investment resources of the country.

An effective management of the external migration processes depends on the coordination of efforts from the government, civil society and socially responsible private sector.

Currently there are about 77 legal entities with licenses to attract foreign labour force to Tajikistan and about 24 (22 are non-governmental) with licenses to send labour migrants abroad. These entities provide quarterly information to the migration service of the Tajik Interior Ministry. In 2008 these organizations have sent about 8658 Tajik citizens abroad, mainly to Russia.

In order to solve the problem of labour migration and its regulation the Government of Tajikistan is closely cooperating with many international organizations, such as International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration and others, taking into account international norms and standards, regulating labour migration.

Thank you for attention.