

STATEMENT
by His Excellency Ambassador Magzhan Ilyassov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in the Briefing on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: Report of the UN Secretary-General
(16 February 2022, 10:00 am in the UN General Assembly Hall)

Mr. President
Excellencies and distinguished delegates

Let me express my gratitude to the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly and the UN Network on Migration for convening today's important event which gave us good opportunity to hear on the Secretary General's report, its findings, and recommendations on ensuring safe, orderly, and regular migration and fulfil the promise of the Global Compact on Migration.

This briefing has brought us together to exchange our perspectives on issues raised in the Secretary-General's Report. The briefing will also be an opportunity to build momentum ahead of the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May this year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the patterns of international migration in many ways. Evolving mobility restrictions and entry requirements have profoundly changed the way migrants are received, stayed, employed and returned. However, it is clear that many problems arose even before the pandemic. Discrimination, xenophobia, misinformation and stigmatization of migrants still exist in every corner of the world. The Global Compact is based on international human rights law and affirms the principles of non-regression and non-discrimination. By implementing the Global Compact, we ensure that the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status, are properly respected, protected and fulfilled at all stages of the migration cycle. We also reaffirm the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance, against migrants and their families.

The main trend was a decrease in migration flows due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the introduction of restrictive measures on the movement of people and the closure of borders in many countries of the world, including Kazakhstan. In 2020, 885.7 thousand people participated in migration processes in the Republic of Kazakhstan with a change of permanent residence, including 845.2 thousand people resettled within the country, 40.5 thousand people participated in international migration.

As part of the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM), Kazakhstan undertook to conduct a national review on the implementation of the goals of the GCM, and an interagency working group was created under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The first national review of our country was prepared by interagency working group in 2020. In this voluntary review Kazakhstan noted the impact of the pandemic on migration management issues, as well as the measures taken by the country to protect migrants.

At present, the task of our interagency working group is to prepare the second national review on the implementation of the GCM by the end of February 2022.

In the current draft of voluntary review, Kazakhstan has focused on the global challenges of migration: Connection of migration, ecology and climate change; Global competition for talents; Transformation of the global labor market; COVID-19 pandemic; Illegal migration; Integration of migrants. It should be recognized that Kazakhstan has done a lot to implement all 23 goals of the GCM, confirmed by strategic documents, legislation, collection and analysis of statistical data.

Finally, let me express my gratitude to the IOM Mission in Kazakhstan, which provides technical assistance to the interagency working group in preparing the country analysis for the upcoming International Migration Review Forum.

Thank you.