

Information

On Implementation Progress of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

In the Russian Federation, steps are being taken at the legislative level aimed at optimizing migration processes. Mutually beneficial conditions are being set to enable sustainable development of legal migration, and migration procedures are being facilitated for migrants who would like to stay in the territory of the Russian Federation.

An important milestone in migration policy development in Russia was the approval in 2018 of the new Concept of State Migration Policy of the Russian Federation through 2025 (hereinafter referred as the Concept) by V.Putin, President of the Russian Federation, which sets a vector for further government's measures in the field of migration. This concept is a migration road map.

Within the framework of the concept, broad-scale comprehensive legislative work is currently carried out in order to create efficient mechanisms to regulate migration legal relations.

Modernization of public administration in the field of migration will touch upon all aspects of migration legal relations, including stay of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Russian Federation, labor migration regulation, and administration and supervision powers.

Within the Concept implementation, cardinal changes are envisaged in migration legislation through its systematization. This effort will allow revising legal and regulatory acts in a quality manner, as well as information and analytical support of migration policy, including in improving completeness and fairness of migration situation data accumulated and facilitating practical work. At present a concept of legal regulation of migration is being drafted.

To develop migration situation that meets the interests of the Russian Federation, it is intended to introduce institutes of short-term and long-term stay in the Russian Federation and preserve an institute of permanent residence, thus removing a temporary residence institute.

There is an ongoing work to update the Law on Citizenship of the Russian Federation aimed facilitating the procedure to obtain the Russian citizenship.

For reference only: in 2020 the following legal and regulatory acts were enacted:

Federal Law No.58-FZ dated March 18, 2020, "On Changes and Amendments to Article 33¹ of Federal Law "On Citizenship in the Russian Federation";

Federal Law No.63-FZ dated March 18, 2020, "On Changes and Amendments to Articles 35 and 41 of the Federal Law "On Citizenship in the Russian Federation"; and

Federal Law No.134-FZ dated April 24, 2020, "On Changes and Amendments to the Federal Law "On Citizenship in the Russian Federation" in the Part of Facilitating Procedure

¹ Prepared based on the materials of the Chief Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior of Russia

to Admit to Citizenship of the Russian Federation Approved by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No. 1325 as of November 14, 2002”.

Besides, drafting of a new version of the Federal Law “On Citizenship of the Russian Federation” has started.

One of the key areas in providing assistance to foreign citizens who seek protection in the territory of the Russian Federation stipulated by the Concept is maintaining high standards and further development of mechanisms to assist specified category of foreign citizens in compliance with the international legal commitments of the Russian Federation and taking into account the interests of Russian citizens’.

Within the Concept implementation as well as integrated update of the migration Concept, there is an ongoing work on improving asylum institute. At present, the Federal Law “On Providing Asylum at the Territory of the Russian Federation” has been drafted. The provisions of the draft law fix key convention-based principles of protecting asylum-seekers, such as confidential nature of information regarding the above category of citizens, as well as “non-expulsion” principle; four types of asylums are specified, including development of a new institute – “temporary protection”, its criteria based on international commitments of the Russian Federation.

A novelty of the draft law comprises considerable streamlining of the existing asylum procedure that includes filing of asylum application; and when reviewing such application, relevant decisions are made on providing either type of asylum, as well as reduction of application review and procedure of appeal against decisions.

Draft law’s provisions preserve a possibility for foreign citizens and stateless persons, who stay illegally in the territory of the Russian Federation, to immediately apply for asylum, which excludes the necessity to place such asylum seekers to specialized institutions for temporary stay of foreign citizens (hereinafter referred to as specialized institutions) as those who violated the procedure and stay in the territory of the Russian Federation.

In addition, a possibility is envisaged for foreign citizens who stay in specialized institutions to file asylum application, and the time for considering such applications is expected to considerably reduce.

In this regard, foreign citizens, who filed asylum applications, will be kept in specialized institutions within the minimum period of time required for this. After a positive decision, such citizens will be able to implement their right for referral to stay in temporary accommodation centers.

It is important to note that the provisions of the current Law on Refugees have been maintained, which meet international conventions of refugees, in the part of non-return of foreign citizens, asylum seekers, those who obtained or lost (were deprived of) a refugee status, to the territory of their native country (their regular place of residence) when retaining circumstances that are grounds for asylum.

In addition, the Concept emphasizes that in order to ensure the Russian Federation’s security in the field of migration, it is necessary to improve existing security, law and order

mechanisms and institutes aimed at preventing violation of the rules and other law enforcement tasks, including adjustment of the institute of ban to enter the Russian Federation, improvement of the institute of undesirability of foreign citizens' stay (residing) in the territory of the Russian Federation and procedure of foreign citizens' deportation from the Russian Federation.

It is intended to revise approaches to legal regulation of the procedure of foreign citizens' stay in the territory of the Russian Federation, existing procedure to apply restrictions to the people who violated migration rules, such as a ban to enter the Russian Federation and undesirability to stay in the country, as well as deportation institute (administrative expulsion, deportation, readmission). Issues are being addressed to implement an institute of "regulated stay" and the so-called "migration search" of foreign citizens.

To improve the quality of data on migration processes, as well as the system of governmental management of migration processes, the work was conducted in 2019-2020 to identify parameters of analyzing migration situation in the Russian Federation and drafting proposals to facilitate its monitoring and evaluation.

Thus, a number of parameters were identified to analyze migration situation, which reflect its impact over economic, social, cultural, national, ethno-confessional and other aspects of the Russian society's life. Based on these parameters, monitoring of migration situation has been established, which allows governmental authorities of the Russian Federation providing most recent and unbiased data for migration-related management decision-making. Monitoring data are published monthly on the official website of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation².

Besides, proposals have been prepared to further facilitate this work, which envisage improving parameters to analyze migration situation and monitoring procedure.

The evaluation of analytical potential of the existing migration situation data demonstrated that, depending on the information quality, credibility, frequency and consolidation level, the most unbiased is administrative accounting by governmental authorities. Combination of indicators, comparable in terms of level of detail, which are characteristic of economic, social, migration and other processes, allows better analyzing interrelations between them, thus forecasting possible areas and situation development scenarios in a more precise way.

Due to the fact that agency data sources are not a part of a uniform information system, comprehensive monitoring of migration situation by governmental authorities is hindered by a lack of relevant mechanisms and tools for information collaboration. Limited potential of information and analytical support by governmental authorities in reviewing migration situation does not allow for a comprehensive assessment of measures taken to attain national migration policy objectives.

As a result of interagency efforts to elaborate on potential approaches to resolving the tasks set, stage-by-stage establishment of comprehensive monitoring system and migration situation evaluation deems most optimal.

² <https://мвд.рф/Deljatelnost/statistics/migracionnaya>

At the initial stage, parameters of migration situation analysis will comprise data generated by federal statistical findings on population migration movement, as well as governmental information system of migration accounting of foreign citizens and stateless persons.

The above parameters shall be specified in details by Russian Federation's constituent entities, state of citizenship, purposes of entering the Russian Federation, age/gender composition, location of stay (residence) in the territory of the Russian Federation and other data that characterize the composition of foreign citizens and stateless persons staying in the territory of the Russian Federation. In future, as statistical tools are improved, the parameters will be complemented by other data on migration processes and citizens provided relevant information exchange is established among governmental authorities. Besides, it seems possible to gradually expand parameters of analyzing migration situation with the data on demographic situation, labor market, fiscal characteristics and taxes, criminal situation and law and order condition, results of polls and other information generated by sample surveys.

Tailoring of chronological description of measures taken by governmental authorities to migration situation monitoring will allow evaluating their regulating impact.

In order to collect, process and provide the above information to all governmental stakeholders, it is proposed to create a system, which would include migration situation monitoring, analysis, forecasting, evaluation of migration impact over various fields of activities, as well as efficiency of measures taken by governmental authorities.

At the same time, parameters of migration situation analysis can be used for other monitoring in various areas (public security, drug situation, interethnic and inter-confessional relations, social and economic development of constituent entities of the Russian Federation, etc.). The proposed approach to establishment and development of the national migration monitoring and evaluation system in the Russian Federation will allow for impartial control of attaining national migration policy objectives.

In addition, it is intended to create a governmental system to plan and manage migration processes, thus providing for tailoring measures to implement state migration policy in the key areas of the Strategy of Spatial Development of the Russian Federation through 2025, social-economic and investment needs of the Russian Federation's constituent entities.

For reference only: within the framework of this system, it is supposed to ensure:

- *Improving statistical tools to observe migration processes;*
- *Estimating intersectoral differentiated parameters to analyze migration situation that reflect its impact over population's living standards, social development, national economy and security condition;*
- *Monitoring of migration situation and applying its results to various areas of activities carried out by governmental authorities;*
- *Developing and simulating managerial migration-related decisions required to resolve the tasks of spatial development of the Russian Federation, thus using digital mechanisms of interagency cooperation;*

- *Automation of planning social and economic and investment requirements of the Russian Federation's constituent entities in the field of human capital potential accounting, its reallocation and replenishment by economic sectors and enterprises; and*
- *Integrated estimation of efficiency of measures taken to implement governmental migration policy and assessment of regulation impact.*

Within the framework of enhancing accessibility of governmental services in the field of migration, measures are taken aimed at enabling a possibility to apply for such services through a uniform portal of governmental and municipal services.

Population awareness in relation to provided relevant services is ensured – data are published on the uniform portal of governmental and municipal services, at the official website of the Ministry of Interior of Russia and official websites of territorial departments of the Ministry of Interior of Russia at the regional level on the Internet, on information desks of migration units, and are provided by the staff over the phone or in person.

The Russian Federation makes efforts to ensure that all migrants hold legal IDs and proper documents.

For reference only: the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly is reviewing draft Federal Law No. 948528-7 “On Changes and Amendments to the Federal Law “On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation” and Certain Legal Acts of the Russian Federation in Regulating Legal Status of Stateless Persons” (hereinafter referred to as the draft Law). Back on July 8, 2020, the draft Law was adopted by the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly on first reading.

At present, over five thousand people with irregular legal status and having no IDs stay in the territory of the Russian Federation.

The draft Law envisages issuing, on the basis of decision on acknowledging the status of stateless person, a “temporary ID of a stateless person in the Russian Federation” to such people (hereinafter referred to as temporary ID), which will confirm its holder's identity in the Russian Federation.

Besides, the draft Law stipulates that labor activity will be carried out by the above category of people without issuance of work permits. Moreover, the draft Law comprises provisions specifying grounds to terminate stateless persons' stay in a specialized institution, which are subject to administrative expulsion from the territory of the Russian Federation, deportation or readmission, in case of annulment of relevant decisions, terminating readmission procedure as well as acknowledging such persons refugees, or if temporary asylum is provided at the territory of the Russian Federation.

As per the mechanism of oversight (control) by authorized bodies over the persons who obtained temporary ID, the draft Law envisages implementation of such mechanism through defining necessity of annual extension of such document. Taking into consideration the fact, that temporary ID allows the stateless person staying in the Russian Federation, the draft Law stipulates suspension of earlier made decisions in relation to such person's ban to enter the

Russian Federation and/or decision on undesirability of such person's stay (residing) in the Russian Federation.

At the same time, it is necessary to highlight efforts made to facilitate an access to legal migration channels and enhancing flexibility thereof.

During recent years, considerable number of changes and amendments were made to the law of the Russian Federation aimed at facilitating migration procedures such as issuance of permits for temporary residence and residence permits to foreign citizens and stateless persons and ensuring their migration registration.

For reference only: back on November 1, 2019, Federal Law No. 257-FZ dated August 2, 2019, "on Changes and Amendments to the Federal Law "On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation" in Part of Facilitating Procedure of Providing Permits for Temporary Residence and Residence Permits to Certain Categories of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons" came into force.

The novelties envisage that, in particular, residence permit shall be issued without expiry date, with the exception of the residence permit issued to a high-skilled specialist and family members thereof. Lists of foreign citizens have been expanded, who are eligible to obtain permits for temporary residence without quota set by the government of the Russian Federation, or to obtain a permit for temporary residence.

For reference only: according to the changes and amendments, permits for temporary residence are allowed without quota to the following categories:

- *Ukrainian citizens and stateless persons who permanently reside in the territory of the Ukraine, who have been acknowledged refugees or those who obtained temporary asylum in the territory of the Russian Federation;*
- *Persons from the states that used to be a part of the former USSR, who obtained professional education in state higher educational institutions, state vocational institutions or state scientific organizations, within educational programs holders of state accreditations, located at the territory of the Russian Federation; and*
- *Persons who move to the Russian Federation for permanent residence in compliance with international treaties of the Russian Federation on regulating relocation process and protection of migrants' rights.*

In addition, the novelties allow obtaining residence permit under a simplified procedure, i.e. without a permit for temporary residence, in particular for the following categories:

- *Persons who were born in the territory of the RSFSR, who used to be citizens of the USSR in the past and those who have children or parents – citizens of the Russian Federation; and*
- *Skilled specialists who work in the Russian Federation in accordance with their profession (specialty, position) included by the Ministry of Labor of Russia into relevant list of professions.*

Besides, Federal Law No. 18-FZ dated June 8, 2020, "On Changes and Amendments into the Federal Law "On Migration Registration of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons in the Russian Federation" (enacted on September 7, 2020) stipulates that foreign citizens can be hosts, who own dwelling premises in the territory of the Russian Federation and who provide such dwelling premises, under the law, to a foreign citizen for the use and actual stay thereof".

Under the provisions of the above Federal Law, notification of arrival of a foreign citizen to the destination can be filed electronically.

Measures are taken in the Russian Federation to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment of employees and ensure conditions for decent work.

In compliance with the provisions of the Russian law, foreign citizens enjoy the right to freely dispose of their capacity to work, choose occupation and profession, as well as the right to freely use their capacity and property for entrepreneurship and other type of activities not prohibited by the law, without prejudice to restrictions laid down by the Federal Law. Thus, a foreign citizen has the right to work if he/she is over 18, subject to availability of a work permit or a patent.

Foreign citizen's labor activities means the work carried out by a foreign citizen in accordance with a labor agreement or a civil contract for delivery of works (services).

In compliance with the Labor Code of the Russian Federation, it is mandatory to specify the following in the labor agreement: place of work, work duties (specific type of job assignments), date of work commencement, working hours and time off work, as well as grounds for medical assistance to be provided to the employee during the period of the labor agreement. Besides, a labor agreement may contain additional provisions not deteriorating the employee's conditions versus those set by the labor law. In addition, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure safe and secure working environment.

One of the key principles of the labor law of the Russian Federation is prohibition of forced labor and discrimination in labor area. Thus, providing certain preferences to women related to maternity, their family responsibilities are not considered to be discriminatory or infringing the rights of other workers.

In spite of the fact that so far the Russian Federation has not acceded the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness as of August 30, 1961, the Russian law contains provisions aimed at reduction of statelessness. Reduction of statelessness is one of the principles of the Russian citizenship.

Under the Constitution of the Russian Federation, stateless persons enjoy the rights in the Russian Federation and bear responsibilities on an equal basis with citizens of the Russian Federation, except for instances specified by the Federal law or international treaty of the Russian Federation.

Stateless persons permanently residing in the Russian Federation, in the instances and under the procedure established by Federal laws, have the right to elect and be elected to local self-government bodies, as well as take part in a local referendum.

The Russian Federation encourages stateless persons who reside at the territory of the Russian Federation to obtain the Russian citizenship.

Another principle of the Russian Federation's citizenship is its unlimited nature; lack of provisions that would restrict citizens' rights based on social, race, ethnic, language or religious grounds. The principles of the Russian Federation's citizenship and rules that regulate the issues related to the Russian citizenship cannot contain provisions that would restrict citizens' rights based on social, race, ethnic, language or religious grounds.

The Federal law of the Russian Federation envisages certain provisions for stateless persons, which facilitate the procedure of obtaining the Russian citizenship.

Thus, stateless persons who have reached the age of 18 years old and acquired legal capacity can file an application to obtain the citizenship of the Russian Federation under a simplified procedure, if the above persons used to have the citizenship of the USSR, resided and are residing in the states that used to be a part of the USSR and did not obtain the citizenship of those states.

A child acquires the citizenship of the Russian Federation by birth if at birth both parents and one parent thereof residing on the territory of the Russian Federation are stateless persons, under condition the child was born at the territory of the Russian Federation.

Stateless persons who are citizens of the former USSR, who due to certain objective circumstances (lack of documents, housing, etc.) failed to obtain an official status of a person residing in the Russian Federation, are provided with the right to choose obtaining either the Russian citizenship or residence permit.

In compliance with the Tax Code of the Russian Federation, when citizenship of the Russian Federation is provided to individuals who used to have the citizenship of the USSR, resided or are residing in the states that used to be a part of the USSR, but who did not obtained the citizenship of those states and therefore are stateless persons, state duty shall not be paid.

Since 2014 through June 30, 2020, about 45 thousand stateless persons acquired the citizenship of the Russian Federation. As of June 30, 2020, based on the permit for temporary residence in the Russian Federation of residence permit, appr. 7.1 thousand stateless persons reside at the territory of the Russian Federation, who are potential applicants for the Russian citizenship.

Being a party to the UN Convention as of 1951 and 1967 Protocol thereto in relation to the refugee status, as well as a number of international instruments related to protection of human rights, the Russian Federation strictly implements its international humanitarian commitments to provide rights and protection to people seeking protection at the territory of the Russian Federation.

For reference only: grounds and procedure of recognition to be a refugee and providing temporary asylum, as well as economic, social and legal guarantees of protecting the rights and legitimate interests of persons, who obtained asylum, are regulated by Federal Law No.4528-I dated February 19. 2003, "On Refugees" (hereinafter referred to as the Law on Refugees).

Thus, in compliance with the Law on Refugees, persons who were recognized refugees and their family members, who arrived with them, on an equal basis with citizens of the Russian Federation, enjoy the right for health care and medication, assistance in referral to vocational training or employment; social protection, including social welfare.

Asylum allows foreign citizens and stateless persons carry out labor activities at the territory of the Russian Federation without issuing relevant permits.

Persons who acquired asylum are provided with identity documents at the territory of the Russian Federation, and travel documents are issued to persons recognized refugees for exiting the territory of the Russian Federation, which contain electronic media that meet international standards.

Besides, foreign citizens recognized refugees or those who obtained temporary asylum at the territory of the Russian Federation are eligible for referral to the center of temporary stay for the persons of the above category, their accommodation and meals covered by the state.

For reference only: within improvement of the assistance mechanism for foreign citizens seeking asylum at the territory of the Russian Federation, in order to remove collision between the asylum institute and the law on foreign citizens' legal status in the Russian Federation, as well as to enhance protection of persons recognized refugees or those who acquired temporary asylum and create additional conditions for their adaptation and integration at the territory of the Russian Federation, Federal Law No. 280-FZ dated July 31, 2020, "On Refugees" was adopted, which stipulates removal of obtained permit for temporary residence at the territory of the Russian Federation from the list of grounds to loose refugee status and temporary asylum, as well as fixes the certificate of provided temporary asylum at the territory of the Russian Federation as an identity document of the person who obtained a temporary asylum.

Rights and freedoms of a human being and a citizen in compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation can be restricted by the Federal Law only to the

extent necessary to protect the foundations of the constitutional order, morality, health, rights and legitimate interests of other persons, ensuring country defense and security.

Thus, detention of foreign citizens in specialized institutions envisages restriction of freedom of movement for the foreign citizens placed there in order to ensure execution of the court rulings, issued in compliance with the law of the Russian Federation, on administrative penalty of forced expulsion from the Russian Federation, decisions on deportation or transfer of foreign citizens from the Russian Federation to a foreign country under the international agreement of the Russian Federation on readmission.

Activities carried out by specialized institutions are regulated by the law, *inter alia* the procedure of foreign citizens' detention, their rights and obligations, health care, sanitary and medication arrangements. Foreign citizens are detained in specialized institutions in compliance with the principles of legality, humanity, respect for human dignity, personal security, and protection of health. There shall be no discrimination of persons detained in specialized institutions; it is not allowed to provide them with benefits or preferences based on gender, race, ethnicity, language, origin, property status or official capacity, place of residence, attitude to religion, beliefs, membership on social organizations, as well as on other grounds.

A foreign citizen shall be detained (stay) in a specialized institution until his/her departure from the Russian Federation in enforcement of orders as per expulsion of foreign citizens from the territory of the Russian Federation, deportation, and readmission.

The Russian Federation carries out ongoing work, jointly with partners from FSU and non-FSU countries, in implementing the readmission institute as the most humane way to expel foreign citizens from the country territory.

By the moment, the geography of readmission agreements of the Russian Federation covers 17 international agreements with the following partners: European Community, the Kingdom of Norway, the Swiss Confederation, Principality of Liechtenstein, Iceland, Republic of Armenia, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Kingdom of Denmark, Republic of Uzbekistan, Turkish Republic, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Republic of Belarus, Mongolia, Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as 41 Implementation Protocols on their implementation procedure. Besides, Memorandum of Understanding on Counteracting Illegal Migration has been concluded with the Republic of India, Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illegal Migration – with the PRC, which contains provisions related to the readmission procedure of citizens of Russia and China, as well as Agreement with the DPRK on transfer and admission of persons who illegally entered and illegally stay in the territory of both countries.

Most intensively is implemented the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the European Community on Readmission dated May 25, 2006, which provides for

readmission of Russian citizens, who stay illegally in the territory of EC countries. At present, all 25 Implementation Protocols on implementation procedure of the above Agreement have come into force.

For reference only: Since the beginning of implementation of the international agreements of the Russian Federation on readmission (since 2007) and as of June 30, 2020, 30.7 thousand readmission applications (requests) have been received. Thus, 27.8 thousand readmission applications have been considered, of which 20 thousand applications have been granted (of which 6.3 thousand in relation of the minors), and 7.8 thousand applications were rejected. In total, 5.6 thousand people were readmitted by the Russian Federation.

2.5 thousand applications have been received on transit via the territory of the Russian Federation, of which 2.4 thousand have been granted, thus 2.1 thousand people transited the country territory.

The Russian Federation has sent 6.6 thousand readmission applications (requests) to foreign countries, and 4.6 thousand foreign thousand foreign citizens were readmitted by foreign countries.

Currently, international agreements on readmission are being drafted and prepared for signing with the countries of Asia-Pacific Region, Middle East and Northern Africa.

Draft readmission agreements and implementation protocols on their implementation procedure are being elaborated on with the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Lebanon, Northern Macedonia, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of the Philippines, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, and Japan.

The most noteworthy is the improvement of the treaty and legal basis with the countries of the former USSR, such as Turkmenistan and Republic of Abkhazia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, and Republic of Tajikistan.

In order to strengthen international cooperation in counteracting illegal migration, the Ministry of Interior of Russia collaborates actively with competent authorities of foreign countries.

Currently, to enhance efficiency of collaboration with consulates and to reduce time of issuing certificates for the return for foreign citizens and stateless persons, subject to forced expulsion, the Ministry of Interior of Russia has drafted Agreement on Collaboration of Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in relation to the above issues. The draft Agreement was initially agreed by representatives of the Ministries of Interior (police) of CIS member countries, thus intended to be presented at a regular Council of Ministers of Interior of CIS member countries. Signing of this Agreement will allow improving efficiency of collaboration between the Commonwealth countries when formulating and issuing certificates for the return to the persons subject to forced expulsion, reduce detention period in specialized institutions for such category of

people and will provide for the fastest return of citizens, who found themselves in difficult living situation, to the country of their citizenship.

One of the priorities of the Russian Federation is to strengthen international cooperation and global partnership in order to ensure safe, regular and legal migration.

International cooperation in migration field in the Russian Federation is accomplished in compliance with universally recognized norms and principles of the international law, as well as taking into account migration policy principles specified in the Concept.

The Russian Federation attends on a permanent basis sessions of the Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the Program of UNHCR, Executive Committee of UNHCR and events (workshops, conferences) held within joint UNHCR/OSCE project to share best practices in resolving statelessness issues, which allow participants from different countries, who face different migration-related challenges, sharing experience and finding the most efficient solutions for problems in the migration field.

In addition, broad scope of migration issues is discussed within the framework of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Prague Process, EU-Russia Migration Dialogue, the Russia-EU Joint Commission of Readmission, and Eurasian Economic Commission.

Besides, the Russian Federation is implementing international cooperation in migration field at multilateral interaction platforms in the CIS space. The key international platforms in the area of migration where the Russian Federation plays a leading role is the Council of Heads of Migration Organizations of Member Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Coordination Council of Heads of Competent Bodies of Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization for counteracting illegal migration, Joint Commission of the Parties to the Agreement on Cooperation between the Member States of the CIS in the field of counteracting illegal migration, Intergovernmental Interagency Working Group for drafting recommendations as per agreed migration policy.

Traditionally, in the course of meetings, participants review migration situation in the countries, address current trends, share experience in regulating migration flows, and develop decisions to improve interaction between migration bodies.

In addition, the Russian Federation implements bilateral international agreements in the area of labor migration with the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, as well as with the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Republic of Korea, Mongolia and the Republic of France; agreements in counteracting illegal migration with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, People's Republic of China, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Republic of Latvia.

To develop treaty and legal basis in the field of external labor migration, a possibility to conclude relevant international agreements is being addressed with the Republic of Serbia, the Italian Republic, Republic of Moldova, Republic of India, People's Republic of Bangladesh, and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Within the framework of implementing international agreements in the field of labor migration and counteracting illegal migration, regular meetings are held with representatives of competent authorities of foreign countries, where such issues are addressed as stay and labor activities carried out by foreign citizens at the territories of the countries – parties to such agreements, provisions of migration laws are explained in order to prevent offences committed by foreign citizens, and other migration-related issues are discussed.

To ensure urgent response under COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian Federation adopted a set of measures to regulate migration processes.

For reference only: under the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation No.274 dated April 18, 2020, "On Temporary Measures to Regulate Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons in the Russian Federation, Due to the Threat of Further Dissemination of New Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)" the following terms have been suspended for a period of March 15 through September 15, 2020: temporary stay, temporary or permanent residence of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Russian Federation, period of accounting or registration of foreign citizens and stateless persons at the place of residence, if such term expires within the above period; visa, permit for temporary residence, residence permit, migration card containing stamps with expiring dates, refugee certificate, certificate of substantive consideration of application on recognizing refugee status at the territory of the Russian Federation, certificate of temporary asylum at the territory of the Russian Federation, and certificate of participant to a State program.

In addition, the Decree stipulates that within the set period of time, no decisions shall be taken in relation to foreign citizens or stateless persons on undesirability of their stay (residing), on administrative expulsion from the territory of the Russian Federation, on deportation or transfer to a foreign country in compliance with the international treaty of the Russian Federation on readmission, decision on depriving of the refugee status, temporary asylum, on annulment of earlier issues visas, work permits, patents, permits for temporary residence, residence permits, and certificate of participants to a State program.

The provisions of the Decree envisage that since June 16 through September 15, 2020, foreign citizens and stateless persons who arrived to the Russian Federation under visa-free procedure are eligible to file application on issuance (extension, reissuance) of a patent without regard for the requirement to the set term for filing documents for reissuance, to the declared purpose of visit and exit from the Russian Federation; employers, customers of works (services), who obtained in an orderly manner a permit to

recruit and use foreign workers, under conditions the established restrictions and other measures are followed, which are aimed at ensuring medical and epidemiological welfare of population, are eligible to file application for issuance (extension) of a work permit for a foreign citizen or a stateless person who arrived to the Russian Federation under a procedure requiring visa issuance. Such permit shall be issued (extended) irrespectively of the requirements to the declared purpose of visit of a foreign citizen or a stateless person for any term through September 15, 2020.

Ministry of Interior of Russia
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