

Global Compact for Migration

Survey Conducted to Integrate Its Outcomes into Asian-Pacific Regional Review on Implementation of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Bangkok, November 18-20, 2020)

Please specify the agency in charge of coordinating replies to the questionnaire within the framework of this Survey and provide contact information.

Country: Republic of Tajikistan

Please send completed questionnaire to UNESCAP Secretariat by 31 **October** 2020, preferably by email (escap-sdd@un.org), with c/c to Regional Migration Network for Asia and Pacific (TJNRNAP- regreviews@iom.int). You can send any questions to the same address.

Please specify if you agree to place your report on the page of review forum for international migration/regional reviews on the UN Migration Network's website <https://www.migrationnetwork.un.org/>. Do not hesitate to send any questions that may arise in this regard to the following email address: UNKNAP-regreviews@iom.int. Yes- agreed.

1st block of questions

Ensuring voluntary, orderly and legal migration

In 2019 over 530,883 citizens left the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan for labor migration. Of them 453,870 (85.4%) are males and 77,013 (14.5%) – females. Of the above total number, 518,066 (97.5%) migrants left for the Russian Federation.

During the first half of 2020, 129,807 citizens left the country for labor migration, of them 112,927 (87%) are males and 16,880 (13%) – females, which reduced by 170,477 people versus similar period of 2019 (i.e. 57% reduction). At the same time, over 90 thousand labor migrants – citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan returned back to the country, which is by 52% less versus similar period of the last year.

Key drivers for population movement are well-known, thus remaining the same; economic, political, ethnic and environmental ones.

Citizens of Tajikistan who left for labor migration are primarily employed in trade and procurement business, construction, repairs, services, season work sectors, agriculture and industrial production.

During the recent years labor migration has been reflecting the processes taking place in the countries of origin and destination. These processes are influenced by both economic and social and political issues. Push and pull factors were and are mainly lack of jobs while there is a surplus of labor resources available domestically, as well as citizens' economic interests.

Labor migration is one of the strategic issues for the Republic of Tajikistan, as this is one of the areas of economic growth in Tajikistan.

Government of Tajikistan takes a set of measures, which will allow significantly improving economic situation in the future and partially resolving the issues of employment and adequate wage size. They encompass both country's ongoing economic reforms aimed at supporting SMB and investment projects implemented in the hydro-energy sector, as well as construction of

tunnels that linked various regions of mountainous Tajikistan, which will further break the country out of the communication deadlock.

Labor market policy is aimed at creating more flexible labor market through training and retraining of human resources, employment consultations and assistance to job-seekers. Key elements of the Governmental strategy to improve population wealth comprise production growth in private sector and creation of jobs.

However, one can expect Tajikistan in the nearest future to remain a country of origin for labor force into Russia and Central Asia practically to the same extent. The bulk of the labor migrant flow goes to the Russian Federation. As Tajikistan enjoys a visa-free regime with Russia and Kazakhstan, citizens of the country can enter these countries in an unhindered and legal way. But some of them, if violate the rules of stay or fail to obtain a work permit, are attributed to the category of migrants with illegal status. Another urgent issue is a lack of social and legal protection of labor migrants, which leads to multiple violations of their rights and freedoms. According to the legal framework of the countries of destination, all foreign citizens (in particular, citizens of Tajikistan) must formulate all documents required for stay and labor activities in the territory of the country of destination. A possibility to obtain all necessary documents related to labor in the country of destination would allow streamlining their status prior to leaving for labor migration, as it takes rather long time to obtain documents in the country of destination, and sometimes certain difficulties may arise when documents are formulated.

Besides, workforce from Tajikistan is often under illicit pressure and common violation of basic rights by medium-level officers of customs, interior and other agencies of the labor force recipient countries. Low legal literacy level and lack of various skills and knowledge among migrants, including zero or poor language proficiency, result in difficult adaptation in a new environment. Such circumstance as considerable number of migrants from Tajikistan find themselves in illegal condition, thus suffering all relevant hardships, including hard living and labor conditions that are threatening their lives and health, and migration laws of the recipient countries preclude their entering the country for work, thus accompanied by their families. Therefore, labor migrants' wives and children stay far away from their husbands and fathers for years.

The Government of Tajikistan and international organizations operating in Tajikistan contribute significantly to make migrants' employment process comply with the law so that a labor migrant would know where he/she goes, where he/she is going to work and his/her working conditions prior to his/her leaving the country. Therefore, migration policy pays much attention to awareness campaign, guidelines for migrant, pocket books, info bulletins, etc. are produced with the involvement of public, international and local non-governmental organizations, where a person who intends to go abroad would be able obtain all necessary information: how and through which people one can find a job, conclude a labor agreement, on rules of entry and registration in a foreign country, stay and employment conditions, rights, e.g. for health care, non-discrimination in wages, information on bank transfers and remittances, consular and diplomatic institutions, how a migrant can protect his/her rights if they were infringed, and who can help in it. A network of information and legal centers for migrants, where free-of-charge consultations are provided by lawyers as per country's employment legislation, operate in many regions of the country. Departments, branches and units of the Migration Service of the Ministry of Labor, Migration and Population Employment of the Republic of Tajikistan operate in all cities and districts of the country.

External labor migration is increasing under the impact of social and economic factors across the country in general, thus labor migration balance remaining negative, and both season and permanent labor migration is growing, which has become an integral part of our real economy and life style for the bulk of economically active population, for whom labor migration has become a key type of activities, and they have already got used to such situation and have no other clue how to improve their lives; their monetary and commodity remittances becoming main source of financing the import of goods and services, banking system's investment resources, and tangible foundation for the development of individual and small entrepreneurship in the country. In the forthcoming future, a number of external labor migrants will grow, thus the share of female labor migrants increasing. In this regard, labor migrants' adaptation in a recipient country becomes urgent, as well as strengthening regulation of migration processes, thus taking into account social and economic development of recipient regions, ethnic compatibility and climatic conditions.

However, at present, under conditions of COVID-19 pandemic and closure of borders, a number of people who have left for labor migration declined dramatically. As compared to the first half-year of 2019, a number of people who left abroad to get employed has declined by 170,477 (57%).

Illegal migration (expert assessment of illegal migration, classification by types of migration law violations)

Illegal migration poses a threat to national security of any country. Like in many other countries, there are certain difficulties in the Republic of Tajikistan in terms of expert assessment of illegal migration.

With regard to the ways for illegal migrants to enter the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, most often these are stateless persons and expat citizens from neighboring countries, who entered the country legally (or those who legally entered the country end-1990s), mainly from the Republic of Uzbekistan, who then stayed in the country and lived for illegally a long period of time. These are mainly women, who registered marriage with citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan and reside based on valid (but without visas or registration) and/or invalid passports of Uzbekistani citizens or stateless persons, who stay based on the passport of the former USSR, or without any documents, or based on certificates of birth, on expired residency permits issued by foreign countries for stateless persons. Insignificant number of expat citizens entered the country in 2000-s based on internal passports, IDs (mainly these are female citizens of the Ukraine, Moldova, and Russia), married citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan and stayed in the country illegally for a long time. Some people, who left the Republic of Tajikistan during the civil war, returned back to the country later. Under the law of the Republic of Tajikistan, expats who stay in the country illegally as well as stateless persons cannot submit their documents for permanent residence and obtain residency.

One of the ways to counteract illegal migration is to take measures aimed at legalizing certain part of illegal migrants.

2nd block of questions

It is necessary to identify challenges that may be caused by irregular migration and uncontrolled movement of a large portion of population. These are issues related to the national security, border management and counteracting a threat of terrorism; transnational crime, in

particular trafficking in persons and illicit import; protection of persons involved into mixed movements and providing assistance to them in compliance with international norms and principles; and further irregular movements.

To support legal border crossing, new travel documents were introduced in the Republic of Tajikistan. Since 2009, following the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 16 “On Approving Samples, Descriptions, Technical Specifications and Technological Protection of Forms of Foreign Passports of Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan Containing Electronic Information Carriers” dated 25th of January, 2010; foreign passports issued in the country contain electronic (biometric) information media.

Ordinary foreign passports that contain electronic information media are issued for a 10-year period.

Under Para 26 of the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 218 “On Approving Rules of Foreign Citizens’ Stay in the Republic of Tajikistan and Rules of Foreign Citizens’ Transit through the Territory of the Republic of Tajikistan” dated the 15th of May, 1999, stateless person’s ID is a document subject to strict accountability, identifying its holder’s identity outside the Republic of Tajikistan, thus issued to a stateless person who has a residency permit in the Republic of Tajikistan to leave the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan. Stateless person’s ID is issued for one year.

In compliance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 1519 dated 20th of September, 2013, passports of a citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan (IDs) were introduced in the country since the 1st of March, 2014. Passports of a citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan are issued for 10 years, thus to be valid only domestically. New generation documents fully meet the norms of ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization), which allows citizens to move freely across borders of all countries of the world.

As per migrants who arrive to the Republic of Tajikistan for different purposes, vast majority of them cross Tajikistan’s borders legally. Specific category comprises refugees and asylum seekers, as this category can arrive to the country without identity documents. In such instances, in order to respond to such situations related to arrival of vulnerable categories of expats to the border, guidelines were developed for border control units with the support of UNHCR representative office specifying a facility of asylum seekers’ referral at the state border.

3d block of questions

Measures promoting social and cultural adaptation of migrants

Labor migrants and foreign citizens come to the Republic of Tajikistan to get higher education, as well as asylum seekers and other expats who stay in the country for a long time. Foreign students who study in the country’s educational institutions mainly come from Turkmenistan, India and Afghanistan. Thus, during 2019, 2979 students were registered, of them 238 citizens of Turkmenistan, 1907 - from Uzbekistan, 60 – from the USA, 132 – from Afghanistan, 95 - from Kazakhstan, 100 - from Kyrgyzstan, 212 - from India, 29 - from China, and citizens of other countries. From Turkmenistan mainly arrive students of Tajik ethnicity, who are proficient in the Tajik language, and students from Afghanistan speak Farsi. Students from India learn Tajik in educational institutions during their studies. Many foreign students stay in student hostels.

Since 2013 the country has been analyzing the situation related to forced migration of refugees from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Back in 2015 the Government of Tajikistan adopted the National Action Plan considering mass arrival of asylum seekers to the country,

which envisages key actions and interaction among executive authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan to accept, accommodate and protect refugees, and specifies potential locations for field camps along the border with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in case of mass arrival of asylum seekers to the country.

During six months of 2020, 41 asylum seekers' applications for refugee status were considered, which is by 134 applications less versus similar period of 2019; of them 90 received refugee status (as compared to 370), 11 were denied refugee status (as compared to 31), and 416 were deprived of refugee status (as compared to 891).

During the period-in-question, 90 asylum seekers were registered at their locations (as compared to 502).

The following numbers were registered: 160 asylum seekers (as compared to 253); 2,331 refugees (as compared to 2,131), who are mainly Afghani citizens.

At present, the number of refugees who have been registered is increasing insignificantly, but if the situation in Afghanistan deteriorates there may be an increase of applications for refugee status from asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers arrive from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, many of them speaking Farsi. Somonien School was opened in the Republic of Tajikistan for children of Afghani refugees and labor migrants.

Children of foreign labor migrants have access to education in schools, lyceums, and higher educational institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Many migrants who come to the country face no problems in learning the language.

All migrants have access to health care. Local population's attitude toward migrants is positive, and conflicts occur very rarely.

Measures to improve legislation on counteracting illegal migration, including readmission agreements

The Republic of Tajikistan revised the provisions of the Constitutional Law "On Citizenship of the Republic of Tajikistan", the Law "On Refugees", "On Trafficking in Persons", etc.

Back on January 8, 2018, the Law "On Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons in the Republic of Tajikistan" was passed in the country. The key objective of the Law is to further improve regulation of relations in the area related to foreign citizens' entry and stay in the country, as well as counteract illegal migration. The new Law extended the period of stay without registration for foreign citizens and stateless persons in the territory of the country up to 10 business days.

To minimize and counteract illegal migration in the country, The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan drafted the Law "On Amnesty in Relation to Stateless Persons and Foreign Citizens (Citizens of Former USSR) Who Stay Illegally in the Territory of the Republic of Tajikistan", which was enacted on December 18, 2019.

The Law stipulates legal and organizational framework for the government's one-time amnesty in relation to legalization of the legal status of stateless persons and foreign citizens who stay illegally in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, thus exempting them from liability for certain offences, set by the law of the Republic of Tajikistan, related to the entry and stay in the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as crossing the national border of the country.

Thus, the goal of the Law is to identify, account for, register and define legal status of such persons and document them.

Legalization-related amnesty applies to foreign citizens and stateless persons who had entered the Republic of Tajikistan prior to December 31, 2016, and stay illegally in the territory of the country.

The rule of Law covers the following categories:

- Stateless persons who have residence permits issued in foreign countries, their validity expired;

- Stateless persons who have lost residence permits issued in foreign countries, or which were withdrawn from them;

- Persons-holders of the former USSR passports or those who lost them, who are not citizens of foreign countries and, under the law of the Republic of Tajikistan, are not citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan;

- Persons-holders of birth certificates issued in the countries that used to be members of the former USSR, or those who lost birth certificates, who are not citizens of foreign countries and, under the law of the Republic of Tajikistan, are not citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan;

- Persons who did not obtain identity documents (passports of the citizen of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, birth certificates), who are not citizens of foreign countries and, under the law of the Republic of Tajikistan, are not citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan;

- Foreign citizens who have no documents that could confirm their affiliation with a foreign state, who have documents with expired validity, or whose documents are not valid; and

- Foreign citizens staying in border areas in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan – holders of valid passports issued by foreign states, but who, according to the law of the Republic of Tajikistan, cannot obtain visa of the Republic of Tajikistan, have their foreign passports registered and submit documents to obtain permanent residency.

To legalize their stay in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, foreign citizens and stateless persons apply to the internal affair agencies, thus submitting a standard-format application. As soon as the application is accepted, a certificate of registration shall be issued to the applicant.

As per violations stipulated by Article 497, part 2 of Article 498, parts 1 and 2 of Article 499 of the Code of the Republic of Tajikistan on Administrative Offences, as well as by part 1 of Article 335 and Article 336 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, identified persons are exempted from liability therefor. Officials and citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan are exempted from administrative liability for violations stipulated by Article 470 of the Code of the Republic of Tajikistan on Administrative Offences related to foreign citizens and stateless persons, who have legalized their status in the Republic of Tajikistan within the time limits, set by this Law.

During six months of 2020, the following regulatory acts were drafted, agreed and passed:

- Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 103 dated 14.02.2020 “On Changes and Amendments to the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “Procedure and Requirements to Connecting to Electric Networks and Associated Services” No. 207-7 dated April 30, 2016”;

- Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 207 dated 31.03.2020 “On Rules of Entry to the Republic of Tajikistan, Stay and Exit of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons from the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as Their Transit through the Territory of the Republic of Tajikistan”; and

- Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 294 dated 27.05.2020 “On Rules of Formulating and Issuing External Passports with Electronic Information Media and Certificates for Return to the Republic of Tajikistan to Tajik Citizens”.

In order to develop tourism sector and create enabling environment for investments, draft Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Changes and Amendments to the Code of the Republic of Tajikistan on Administrative Offences” and draft Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Changes and Amendments to the Administrative Code of Procedures” were developed at the initiative of the Passport and Registration Service of the Ministry of Interior. Those Laws were enacted on the 4th of July 2020, No.1699 and No.1700 accordingly.

In compliance with the laws, sanctions were liberalized for foreign citizens’ violating the Rules of Stay; administrative expulsion sanctions were removed from some articles; court powers to review administrative offences related to foreign citizens were transferred to internal affairs agencies. Besides, the country extended the period of appeal against court rulings related to administrative expulsion off the Republic of Tajikistan.

Instructions was developed and adopted on implementation of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Amnesty in Relation to Legalization of Legal Status of Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons Who Stay Illegally in the Territory of the Republic of Tajikistan”.

There was developed and approved joint Order by the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and State Committee for National Security No. 81 dated 13.02.2020, No.086 dated 14.02.2020, and No.7 dated 13.02.2020 “On Approving Procedure of Considering Issues of Affiliation to Citizenship of the Republic of Tajikistan”. Besides, to streamline administrative procedures, Passport and Registration Service of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan developed and submitted for internal governmental agreement draft laws and resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan related to issuing passports for exit of the minors, passport validity, change of family name, first name and patronimic name, using letters “*у*”, “*у*”, “*и*”, “*и*” [*in Cyrillic – translator’s remark*] when spelling family name, first name and patronimic name in passports, etc.

At present, draft Readmission Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Russian Federation is under discussion. The draft Agreement was reviewed, article by article, at the first meeting of joint working group for counteracting illegal migration of the Ministries of Interior of Tajikistan and Russia, held in Moscow back on March 16. It was agreed to continue discussing the draft Agreement in order to further facilitate dialogue in this direction.

Search for Missing Migrants

As per search for missing migrants from Tajikistan at the territories of recipient countries, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan involves international and non-governmental organizations. Thus, e.g. International Committee of the Red Cross drafted Principles of interaction with families of missing migrants, and the Ministry of Interior put forward the following proposals thereto:

1. The work to implement the Principles should be divided by aspects, e.g. generic, social, technical information, institutional, legal ones, etc.
2. It is necessary to include as a principle interaction with representative of mass media, local governmental authorities.
3. Interaction algorithm should be developed in the area of information exchange with passport and registration services, criminal intelligence units of the Ministry of Interior of Tajikistan, their responsibilities including search for missing people, as well as with forensic experts, Ministry of Emergency Situations, penal correction services, etc.

4. Raising legal literacy is needed among staff of various levels and profiles, which has certain relation to search for missing people.
5. Population and civil society awareness about this issue should be increased.
6. Brochures, posters should be produced, thus listing public, non-governmental and international organizations, as well as volunteer movements, phone numbers and contact persons in governmental and public entities.
7. Social clubs should be established, possibly in virtual format, to share information and discuss issues, as well as for mutual support of families, friends and relations of missing people.
8. Data base should be created containing both ante mortem and postmortem data about missing people, as well as for emergency situations and man-made and natural disasters.
9. Search teams should be created, thus involving active youth.
10. As the majority of Tajik migrants stays and works in the Russian Federation, engagement is needed with the Russian branches of ICRC, IOM and other organizations, as well as with governmental agencies in charge of search for missing people.

Trafficking in Persons

One of the most urgent issues requiring solution, which never leaves us indifferent, is **trafficking in persons in all its forms and variety**. Trafficking in persons in Tajikistan is a result of hard transition to the market; it is underpinned by economic downturn and post-conflict deterioration of economic development in general. This criminal activity is an integral part of international organized crime and one of sources to finance transnational crime.

Analyzing committed crimes of this category, the following most common forms can be identified:

- Recruitment of our citizens by fake firms and figureheads for certain fee allegedly for employment to other countries;
- Trafficking in women and children; and
- Hostage-taking.

Taking out citizens outside the country by deception, under various pretexts, in order to exploit them as a deprived and cheap workforce, is the most common form. Most majority of such crimes are committed by organized criminal groups within migration processes. Lack of effective mechanisms to allocate and regulate labor migration flows provides for organized crime's penetration into these processes. The Ministry of Interior receives numerous claims from our citizens that, when they pay the last of the money to fraudsters (and these are significant amounts) and arrive to the destination, they become victims of deception and subsequently the most deprived workforce. As a result, during a long period of time, they have to work for slave wages to earn for their living and for return trip home.

Particularly developed during the recent time is trafficking in young women and girls in order to make them objects of sexual exploitation. In our opinion, it is explained by rather high and stable demand for these types of services. Typical scheme of trafficking in women is as follows: recruitment under pretext of employment and business, taking them abroad with false documents and fake personal data, transferring them to a customer – den owner, and subsequent exploitation. The mere chain of such steps witnesses the fact that trafficking in women has an organized nature and, therefore, is an area of transnational organized crime. Trafficking in girls and young women is not a social and criminal issue; this is an issue of women's health as some traffickers in human beings use drugs as a means of coercion.

While acknowledging the importance to address this issue and to promote cooperation in counteracting transnational crimes, back on May 29, 2002 the Parliament of Tajikistan ratified the United Nations General Assembly Resolution, adopted on the 15th of November 2000, “On Organized Crime Convention” and additional protocols to prevent trafficking in persons, particularly women and children.

In 2003 a Working Group was established under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to study trafficking in persons and to prevent it, based on which Interagency Commission for Counteracting Trafficking in Persons was established at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan that comprises competent representatives of ministries and agencies.

The Interagency Commission, within its competence, develops governmental policy framework in the field of counteracting trafficking in human beings and recommendations aimed at enhancement of efficient activities to identify and remove reasons and conditions enabling trafficking in persons; collects, analyses, compiles and shares information on the scale, status and trends of trafficking in human beings; facilitates and coordinates activities to prevent situations of trafficking in human beings; takes part in drafting international agreements of the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of counteracting trafficking in persons; and submits annual report to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on its activities in this field.

One of the most significant steps of our government in resolving that issue was amending the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, and namely introducing provisions to criminalize trafficking in human beings and fix punishment for such crime.

The Republic of Tajikistan is a party to numerous international acts on combating trafficking in persons, in particular, UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography, and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

To strengthen combat against trafficking in persons, Integrated Program to Counteract Trafficking in Persons for 2019-2021 was adopted in the country, and legal framework in this field is being improved.

Admittance of Persons, Vehicles, Cargoes, Goods, and Animals across the State Border

Admittance across the state border of persons, vehicles, cargoes, goods, and animals is carried out in set border crossing points, thus comprising acknowledgment of legal crossing of the State border by persons and vehicles arriving to the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, movement of cargoes, goods, and animals across the State border to enter the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, or permitting to cross the State border by persons, vehicles leaving the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, and movement of cargoes, goods, and animals across the State border to exit the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan.

A ground for crossing the State border by persons, vehicles, cargoes, goods, and animals is availability of valid documents supporting a person’s right to enter or exit the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, and relevant documents for vehicles, cargoes, goods, and animals.

Those foreign citizens and stateless persons are not allowed to cross the State border, who, under the law of the Republic of Tajikistan, are not allowed to enter the Republic of

Tajikistan, as well as persons who are banned in an orderly manner to enter or exit the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Admittance of persons, vehicles, cargoes, goods and animals to cross the State border comprises border control formalities (check of documents to enter or exit the Republic of Tajikistan, inspection of vehicles to identify violators of the Rules to cross the State border).

Entry (Pass) to Border Area and Border Stripe

Entering the border area is prohibited for foreign citizens and stateless persons without permit issued by the Ministry of Interior and internal affairs agencies, unless otherwise provided by legal and regulatory acts of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Entry (pass) of persons and vehicles to the border area is accomplished in accordance with identity documents. Border forces define place of entry (pass), travel routes, duration and other conditions of stay in the border area for persons and vehicles.

Permits for entry, temporary stay, accommodation and performance of works in the border stripe are issued by the Border forces. When necessary, additional temporary security restrictions can be set for entry and performance of works in the border stripe.

4th block of questions

To protect migrants' rights, Tajikistan, when drafting, agreeing upon and signing bilateral and multilateral Agreements, Memorandums, Protocols on counteracting crime, on a mandatory basis integrates provisions on counteracting illegal migration, as this activity of law enforcement bodies is very relevant.

During recent years the Ministry of Interior drafted, agreed and signed over 40 international documents on counteracting crime. The majority of them contain provisions regulating activities to counteract illegal migration.

Besides, interaction of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan to ensure protection of rights and lawful interests of our citizens, who carry out labor activities outside the country, has been established with foreign colleagues, thus covering the entire scope of official duties at different levels and in various modalities.

The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan collaborates with the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation in the following areas:

- Conducting operational and preventive, ad-hoc tactical operations to preclude penetration of members of international terrorist and extremist organizations, illicit trafficking in arms, ammunition, explosives, explosive devices, financial and tangible resources to carry out terrorist activities, as well as channels for illegal migration and trafficking in drugs;
- Suppress activities of organized criminal groups engaged in recruitment of both countries' citizens, as well as tracking and liquidation of sources of financing terrorist and extremist groups;
- Consider a possibility to apply regular amnesty in relation to "banned persons" (people who are banned to enter the Russian Federation) among citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan, who committed minor administrative offences;
- Refer lists of citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan who are temporarily prohibited to enter the Russian Federation, thus specifying reasons and period of ban on enter;
- Intensify the process to legalize the status of labor migrants who have been staying and working in one of the countries for a long period of time, by streamlining their legal status, adopting amnesty programs for illegal migrants; and

- Strengthen preventive measures to preclude illegal migration.

Thus, in 1999, in order to address practical collaboration issues, Joint Collegium (JC) of the Ministries of Interior of Russia and Tajikistan was established. At regular JC meetings, issues are addressed to counteract illegal migration, protect citizens' rights of the parties, improve legislation in this field, and create collaboration mechanisms in management foreign citizens' stay.

Law enforcement bodies of our countries interact within the framework of Treaties and agreements signed between the Ministries of Interior of Russia and Tajikistan, as well as Joint Collegium's Resolutions, which attach high importance to developing cooperation to ensure reliable protection of citizens' rights and freedoms for both countries based on principles of equality, respect for the sovereignty, mutual understanding and willingness to preserve and develop professional links between interior affairs agencies of the countries.

Another issue of equal importance is the status of interaction between internal affairs agencies based in the border areas of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Tajikistan.

Border cooperation has emerged as a strong feature of modern international links between regions, as within the globalization environment transboundary flows encompass not only humanitarian bonuses, but are often used for evil objectives. This is particularly urgent in the light of current threats caused by hotbed of instability available in the region. Neighboring Afghanistan, where social and political situation is changing all the time, is a source of increased risk for the countries in the region. Illicit drug trafficking, smuggling of people and arms, armed conflicts at the border, illegal movement of people across borders, increasing influence of ISIL terrorist organization, return of people who took part in combat operations in Syria and Iraq, clan war and current inability of the Afghani government to fully keep the situation in the country under control – all this creates disturbing trends, their negative impact being obvious for everyone.

It should be noted that, as far as migration area is concerned, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan has established and is actively developing practical interaction with all countries that are somehow involved into migration processes. Interagency, intergovernmental, regional and subregional interaction is maintained both with colleagues from FSU and non-FSU countries and within the framework of various international and public organizations and political associations. CIS, CSTO, SCO, OSCE, IOM, ILO, ISMPD, the Budapest Process, the Almaty Process, One Belt One Road Initiative – this is a non-exhaustive list of partners, whom cooperation is carried out with at all levels and in different formats.