

## **Speech**

### **by the Minister of Labour, Migration, and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan Amonzoda Shirin at the Forum for the Consideration of Issues on International Migration (New York, USA)**

*Your Distinguished Excellencies,*

*Honorable colleagues and partners,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Discussions on issues of inclusive development of society, exchange of information ensuring access to essential services, consular protection and contribution of diasporas to migration processes have a direct affect to implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, including the objectives related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A liberal migration policy is being promoted around the globe, including in my country. Tajikistan is taking a pragmatic approach to employ its citizens abroad aimed at alleviating socio-economic and demographic "tensions" in society.

In 2021, the Ministry drafted 26 regulatory legal acts for the purpose of improving legislation of the country that are aligned with goals of today's meeting; these regulatory frameworks specifically tackle issues around Data, Information Processes, Reducing Vulnerabilities, Elimination of Discrimination. Yet, a lot more has to be done to fully comply with the objectives of the Compact and we are committed to cooperate with all parties.

For these purposes, Tajikistan reiterates its readiness for international cooperation with all the countries supporting the Compact and beyond.

It must be emphasized that the Ministry has developed a National Concept for Productive Employment for the period up to 2040 that provides measures to develop productive employment and its expansion is identified as one of the four main priorities for the development of the country. In the context of Central Asia, particularly Tajikistan, the Concept focuses on key market alignment of employability, skills mismatching, and demand for youth to become socially and economically independent.

To ensure access to quality services, Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan has developed Directives on wages for public sector employees, including workers in agriculture, health, food security, culture, transport, land management and environmental protection.

Timely payment of salaries and avoidance of wage arrears are under constant control of the Ministry; measures are being taken to prevent and eliminate them to reduce vulnerabilities.

***Distinguished delegates,***

Let me share few words about Tajikistan's interaction in the migration and international cooperation.

As you know, migration in addition to creating more opportunities for professional development, also has direct economic benefits for those countries where migrants move. The lack of official data on the weak information base of migrants seriously impedes the achievement of the set goals.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan ratified the fundamental UN and ILO Conventions related to labor migration (namely, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and Convention #97 "On Migrant Workers" and Convention #143 "On Abuses in the Field of Migration and Ensuring Equality of Opportunity and Treatment for Migrant Workers").

In addition, national legislative framework is in line with international migration norms. In order to regulate migration processes, to determine their legal, economic and social foundations, in 2001 the Laws of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Migration", "On Refugees" and in 1999 the Concept of State Migration Policy were adopted and been reviewed to introduce recent trends.

At present, efforts of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Population are directed to strengthen legal framework for state regulation of labor migration, to promote effective and targeted use of labor within and outside the country, to improve protection of the interests of the state and the rights and freedoms of labor migrants and their families, and to reduce labor migration abroad. These efforts resulted

in drafting revised Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Migration” and National Strategy for Migration until 2030.

The regulatory and legal framework for cooperation between Tajikistan and the countries of destinations is being consistently improved. To gradually diversify labor migration some activities were undertaken that would lead to signing agreements with some states of Eastern Europe and Arab countries.

To minimize and counteract illegal migration in the country, on 18 December, 2019, the Law “On amnesty in connection with the legalization of the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons illegally staying on the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan” was adopted and successfully accomplished.

***Your Excellencies, colleagues and partners,***

As part of the digitalization commitments, several memorandums of cooperation were signed by the Ministry in the areas of employment, vocational training, choice of professions and vocational training in the field of information technologies, as well as the development and implementation of the Unified system of electronic accounting of workbooks and employment contracts.

***Honorable ladies and gentlemen,***

We sincerely hope that this platform will become an open space to further focus on legalization, consular protection, international cooperation and integration to discuss international best practices through which we can effectively achieve our goals.

Finally, I would like to once again note the great importance of our Forum as a platform for establishing a dialogue between countries and reaffirm the assurances on cooperation with member countries of this Forum.

I thank you all for your attention.