

УКРАЇНА



UKRAINE

Statement
by the Head of the State Committee of Ukraine for Nationalities and Migration
Mr. Serhiy Rudyk at the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and
Development

New York, 14 September 2006

Madame President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates

At the outset let me on behalf of the Government of Ukraine congratulate you and through you the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. Kofi Annan for the timely organization of this very important Dialogue.

I do hope that our deliberations during these two days will contribute significantly to the development both of the countries migrants come from and of those where they arrive.

Madame President,

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement made by distinguished Minister Filatov of Finland on behalf of the European Union.

We have carefully examined comprehensive Report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development and in our view it addresses the core of the issues. We share the point that migration and development are interrelated and international community should foster cooperation in this field to take better use of its development potential.

Let me elaborate on Ukraine's experience on processes and constraints related to migration.

Ukraine, due to her geopolitical situation, has a high level of migration. One can observe that Ukraine is both country of origin and destination for international migration, being on the crossroads of migratory movements from East to West, South to North and backwards. According to the United Nations data my country occupies fourth place in the number of international migrants.

During its fifteen years of independence Ukraine passed through three important periods in international migration. At the beginning of the nineteen nineties great number of Ukraine's population went abroad for permanent residence, at the end of last century the process of stabilization took place, and currently we observe positive balance of migration movement.

At the very beginning we were lacking any experience in the area of migration management and for the first time faced such phenomena as asylum seekers, refugees, illegal migrants and guest-workers. Nowadays Ukraine acceded to the Convention on Refugee Status of 1951 and Protocol on Refugee Status of 1957. Since 2002 Ukraine is the full member of International Organization for Migration.

But there is lot remains to be done. While the European Union now borders Ukraine, the migration movements are likely to grow. That defines Ukraine as a country with mixed streams of migrants.

The reality encourages the Government of Ukraine to introduce measures that would diminish the illegal migration. Monitoring of migration processes and possible participation in the system of preventing illegal migration are of main priority of the relevant Government institutions.

There are guidelines and procedures established in accordance with international practice on applications for the refugee status. Currently close to 2,3 thousand people received such status in Ukraine.

As far as migration from Ukraine is concerned, it is primarily of those who seek for better jobs. Currently, and these data are not officially proved, many millions of Ukrainians are working abroad while the official data shows that there are only 56 thousand. That is the clear indication of further need to facilitate legal migration in cooperation between countries of origin and receiving countries to reduce irregular and illegal migration.

With assistance of the European Union, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and IOM Ukraine successfully implement programmes to develop institutional capacity for migration management. The main purpose of it is promotion of development of migration services of Ukraine according to international humanitarian standards. The establishment of the Migration Service of Ukraine is ongoing.

Madame President,

In conclusion, let me commend the role of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General Mr. Peter Sutherland and welcome the decision to extend his mandate for a longer period of time.

We hope that this Dialogue will contribute to the better understanding of the role of world migration processes and the need of collective coordinative efforts both at national and regional levels. "It is time to turn to evidence" as the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told us this morning.

Thank you, Madame President.