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THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TAJIKISTAN, AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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**Forward-looking discussions
Session 5: Intolerance against migrants**

As an active participant in the international migration process, Tajikistan not only supplies but also receives foreign labourers. Foreign migrant workers from more than 47 countries of the world are currently working in Tajikistan in the construction industry, the transport sector, catering and commerce.

The government is taking steps to ensure a fair and tolerant attitude towards migrants. There have been no recorded instances of hate-related violence against foreign migrant workers in the country.

Like other countries in the region, Tajikistan is faced with the problem of an influx of illegal migrant workers. During the first 10 months of 2010, 590 foreign citizens have been prosecuted for violating residence regulations and for working illegally. As a result 212 foreign citizens (mainly from China and Afghanistan) were subsequently deported.

The Tajik authorities have received no complaints from other countries or unions and associations of foreign migrant workers about discrimination against foreign workers or their unlawful deportation.

As you are aware, migration flows are resulting in appreciable changes in the labour potential and are having an impact on the labour market. Labour migration is a significant process in the current stage of development of many countries, including our Republic. For this reason, considerable attention is being paid to the regulation of labour migration processes by the Government of Tajikistan.

I should add that meetings of government representatives, especially the heads of government, are organized each year with migrant workers, associations, diasporas and national communities in places where our compatriots live abroad.

The legislative framework as regards external labour migration will be improved and a draft version of a Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on External Labour Migration has been elaborated.

Improvements are being made in the interdepartmental co-ordination of migration flow management. The National Strategy for the Labour Migration of Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2011 to 2015 is at the approval stage.

The goals and tasks of this Strategy are:

- The formation of a system of external labour migration as an integral part of the country's national development, the main features of which are transparency, accountability and observance of the law;
- The development of effective forms and methods for migration processes based on the expansion of economic freedoms, the observance of human rights, and the development of bilateral and multilateral international relations, along with the achievement of mutually acceptable relations on this matter with the economic entities of the host country where our migrants are working;
- The development of the labour potential of external migrants, with a view to increasing the level of their professional training and qualifications, ensuring social guarantees, promoting the participation of migrant workers in the national development process, and strengthening social partnership;
- The comprehensive and targeted training of migrant workers for employment abroad;
- The expansion and strengthening of public-private partnership with respect to the training and dispatch of migrant workers abroad.

The Migration Service of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation are working together to devise effective mechanisms for combating phenomena such as intolerance, racism, xenophobia and offences against migrants. For example, this year has seen further development and intensification of the co-operation between the Tajik Ministry of the Interior and the Russian Federal Migration Service to implement an agreement of 16 October 2004 between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the employment and protection of the rights of citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan in the Russian Federation and of citizens of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Tajikistan. Work on the implementation of the intergovernmental agreement of 16 October 2004 on migration issues has been appreciably stepped up and is producing positive results. The effectiveness of our co-operation and co-ordination on sensitive aspects of labour migration, in particular intolerance towards migrants, is increasing from meeting to meeting.

Meetings are held regularly within the framework of the Council of the Heads of Migration Services of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Co-ordination Council of the Heads of the Competent Agencies of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization for Combating Illegal Migration, the Council on Migration Policy under the auspices of the Integration Committee of the Eurasian Economic Community, and the Joint Commission of the States Parties to the Agreement on Co-operation among the CIS Member States in Combating Illegal Migration of 6 March 1998.

With a view to strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE's work in this area, we propose setting up departments specializing in migration issues within the central headquarters and field offices of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.