



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 December 2021

Original: English

Seventy-sixth session

Agenda items 65, 72 (a) and 108

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and
displaced persons and humanitarian questions**

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance**

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 6 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Republic of Belarus as the current holder of the presidency of the Commonwealth of Independent States I am honoured to forward herewith a statement of the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on developing cooperation in the field of migration (see annex).

The statement has been signed by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and the Prime Minister of Armenia.

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 65, 72 (a) and 108.

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**



Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Decision of 15 October 2021 concerning the statement by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on developing cooperation in the field of migration

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States has decided:

1. To adopt the Decision of 15 October 2021 concerning the statement by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on developing cooperation in the field of migration (see enclosure).
2. To request the Republic of Belarus, as the current chair of the Commonwealth of Independent States, to circulate the above-mentioned statement to the United Nations and other international organizations.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan:
I. Aliyev

For the Republic of Armenia:
N. Pashinyan

For the Republic of Belarus:
A. Lukashenko

For the Republic of Kazakhstan:
K.-J. Tokayev

For the Kyrgyz Republic:
S. Zhaparov

For the Republic of Moldova:

For the Russian Federation:
V. Putin

For the Republic of Tajikistan:
E. Rahmon

For Turkmenistan:

For the Republic of Uzbekistan:
S. Mirziyoyev

For Ukraine:

Enclosure

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on developing cooperation in the field of migration

The Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Noting that migration is among the priorities of the State policy of the CIS member States,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening international cooperation in migration policy issues, as well as the importance of enhancing cooperation regarding the regulation of migration processes in the CIS area,

Given the significant contribution of labour migration to the economic development of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Guided by the desire to strengthen relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and inter-ethnic and inter-religious harmony,

Reaffirming their commitment to ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the legislation and international obligations of the CIS member States,

Respecting the right of each CIS member State to provide for its national security as well as to uphold the rights and interests of its citizens,

Confirm the importance of developing and improving the CIS legal and treaty-related framework regarding migration, including the adoption of updated approaches when concluding bilateral international agreements regulating labour activities, including organized recruitment of individuals and readmission;

Seek to cooperate in the development of possible joint measures regarding migration issues and promote their practical implementation;

Recognize the importance of establishing transparent administrative procedures for entry, exit, stays and work in the territories of the CIS member States;

Confirm the need to ensure that migrant workers from CIS countries enjoy the rights granted to them under the law of the State of employment, including ensuring that migrant workers can protect their rights in the State of employment;

Emphasize that it is important for States of employment to ensure the social rights of migrant workers in accordance with the law and the international obligations of the State of employment;

Acknowledge the importance of suitable pre-departure preparation (education) for migrant workers and their families, and of such persons having a basic knowledge of the language of the State of employment, as well as the knowledge needed to meet the legal requirements of the State of employment and to achieve socio-cultural adaptation;

Emphasize efforts to ensure favourable conditions for the adaptation of migrant workers to the legal, socio-economic and cultural conditions of life in the States of employment;

Recognize that a significant factor influencing successful adaptation of foreign nationals is the attitude of members of the host society towards them, and express

their intention to take joint measures to break negative stereotypes regarding migrants;

Emphasize that provoking conflicts on inter-ethnic and inter-religious grounds is unacceptable, and recognize the need to combat manifestations of xenophobia and intolerance;

Emphasize the importance of proper handling of identity documents for the purposes of entry, exit and stays abroad, and of strengthening the counteraction of falsification of personal data and forgery of documents;

Advocate the development, implementation and active use of national and international digital platforms to streamline the processes of entry, residence and employment of migrants in the CIS member States;

Recognize that, with the spread of terrorist and extremist threats, the security of the State and society in matters relating to migration cannot be achieved without applying digital technologies for the processing of personal data, including biometric data, and increasing the instances in which it is transferred across borders; affirm their commitment to the principle of prohibiting arbitrary interference with privacy and the desire to ensure suitable protection of human rights and freedoms in the use of personal data;

Consider it necessary, while complying with national legislation and international obligations, to strengthen cooperation between the competent authorities of the CIS member States in the electronic exchange of information on individuals, including those who have changed their identities;

Call for continued joint efforts to expand cooperation among CIS member States in combating illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and related crimes, in accordance with the legislation and international obligations of the CIS member States;

Confirm their readiness, in emergency situations, to work together for the timely and safe return of migrants and members of their families to the States of their permanent residence, including by enabling unimpeded transit through the territories of the CIS member States;

Emphasizing the necessity of respecting the rights and legitimate interests of migrants who have violated the migration legislation of a host State, recognize the need to strengthen the interaction of the CIS member States with regard to admission of their citizens where those citizens are the object of administrative expulsion, readmission and deportation from another CIS Member State, in accordance with their international obligations.
