



**B E L A R U S**

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Check against delivery

**Commission on Population and Development  
46<sup>th</sup> session**

agenda item 4

**General debate on national experience in  
population matters: new trends in migration:  
demographic aspects**

22 April 2013

**Statement  
by Mr Vadim Pisarevich**

That is why we deem it important to consider the challenges associated with migration and trafficking in persons in a comprehensive way. Success in one area is bound to produce success in another. For this reason, we believe that the upcoming High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly devoted to appraising the implementation of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons also stands as a landmark for the global efforts on migration.

The Government of the Republic of Belarus attaches high priority to the issue of migration in implementing its demographic policies. These aspects were duly reflected in the National Programme of Demographic Security for 2011-2015. Since Belarus has seen for a number of past years its population decline, the Programme seeks to stabilize the country's population at 9,45 million by 2015, and then begin a shift towards demographic growth. This is the context in which the Programme deals with migration.

We are interested in taking full advantage of migration, in creating conditions to slow down emigration, in preserving country's intellectual and labor force capacities. At the same time, we are keen to bring in migrants, mainly foreigners with high levels of skills.

I would like to outline a few specific policies and measures.

First, the Government has been consistently monitoring the situation with migration in the country on the basis of systemic analytical work. In other words, we clearly see where and in what numbers we need immigrants in order to replace the country's natural population decline.

Second, in an effort to attract migrants we try to fully utilize the capacities of our compatriots living abroad, as well as our diasporas. We take measures to encourage emigrants, who had left the country with the view to live permanently abroad or just to work there under labor contracts, to return back home. With this in mind, we have established close coordination and cooperation among relevant state institutions, including country's embassies and consulates.

Third, Belarus is doing a purposeful work to integrate the migrants in its society. Therefore, the Government is implementing a set of legal, organizational and financial steps that aim to legalize and integrate the migrants. We pay particular attention to migrants' employment. For instance, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection is in charge of a national labor vacancies bank, which helps make the relevant information available for both citizens and foreigners.

In the pursuit of its migration policies in the context of demography, Belarus is closely working with international organizations. In particular, I would like to commend a common effort by the Government, relevant national stakeholders and the UNFPA in conducting the country review in the context of the global 2014 ICPD review.

Likewise, I would like to take this opportunity to praise Government's cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, and with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.