

Speech thesis

**Dear Chairperson,
Dear guests and participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me, first of all, express my confidence that this Forum will become another contribution to further strengthening the international cooperation in solving refugee issues, as well as identifying joint approaches and practical measures to achieve the set goals.

I would like to use this opportunity to express gratitude on behalf of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the invaluable humanitarian, expert, technical and other support extended to the country as well as assistance on all matters related to work with refugees.

We are also grateful for contribution of all international organizations in humanitarian actions that closely cooperate with our country on these issues.

Dear Chairperson,

In recent years, various aspects of migration in Kyrgyzstan, and in Central Asian states in general, have become extremely relevant.

This is directly related to the increased scale of migration flows both within our region and with states of other regions, the necessity to deepen interstate coordination in efforts in this area.

In this regard and considering current realities, the issues discussed here today are very important and significant.

In recent years, Kyrgyzstan with the assistance of UNHCR and other international organizations, has managed to create and strengthen relevant institutions, to actively implement policies and legislation based on international good practices and a comprehensive approach to migration and refugee issues.

As the result, the national migration management system has been established, including the asylum system. Within this framework, the legislative framework for refugee protection has been developed, measures to regulate refugee and forced migrants' issues, human trafficking, statelessness are being taken, activities of state bodies on these issues are coordinated, positive experience in integrating refugees, compatriots and victims of human trafficking has been gained.

At the same time, in line with the agenda of this meeting, I would like to make several comments related to these issues in current situation.

First of all, I would like to reaffirm Kyrgyzstan's adherence to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol. Today, the issues of refugee protection in the context of current realities seem particularly important to us.

At the same time, we believe that issues related to national security of the State, especially because of events in Afghanistan, have to be taken into consideration.

The Kyrgyz Republic is watching with concern the emerging situation in this country in connection with the existing threat of movement of members of terrorist organizations to Central Asian states, in particular Kyrgyzstan, with the ideology which is not acceptable for us. Such developments may have extremely negative consequences for our republic and for the whole Central Asia.

It should be noted that the situation in Afghanistan after withdrawal of International Security Assistance Forces (US and EU) has not yet been duly assessed by UN and the world community. In this case, there is an understanding that the processes taking place in Afghanistan are being analyzed, and the impact of various factors on all spheres of life for Afghan society is being studied, including massive displacement and its consequences.

At the same time, the threat of mass influx of Afghan citizens to neighboring countries is more real today than ever.

At the same time, given lack of proper experience in regulating mass movements, and limited resources, we are in need of expert and technical advice in this area.

We hope that this activity can be supported by UNHCR and other international organizations.

I would like to draw your attention to our plans for the coming period.

As part of these discussions, we would like to inform that in 2022 the Kyrgyz Republic intends to continue its work on improving national legislation on issuance of travel documents to refugees and stateless persons in line with ICAO standards.

We hope that as the result of this activity, the Kyrgyz Republic will soon implement measures on issuance of machine-readable travel documents to officially recognized refugees and stateless persons with the assistance of UNHCR.

We hope that documenting refugees with travel documents will expand their right to freedom of movement outside of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Along with this, the Kyrgyz Republic will continue to work on measures aimed to provide refugees with access to healthcare and education services on par with citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic. In this regard we are talking about adoption of legislative acts.

Dear Chairperson,

We highly appreciate the assistance of UNHCR in implementation of programs for refugees in our country, the goal of which is to solve issues of citizenship, employment, education, medical assistance and others.

Cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and UNHCR is bringing concrete and tangible results.

Great contribution of UNHCR staff in Bishkek and the UNHCR office in Central Asia has to be noted.

As you know, recent developments in Afghanistan have led to an increase of the number of asylum seekers in Kyrgyzstan who also seek international assistance. In this regard, it is proposed to consider raising the status of UNHCR office in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to full and effective implementation of international obligations on refugees.

At the same time, we hope to continue cooperation with UNHCR and other international organizations on refugee issues.

Thank you for your attention!