

Migration Governance in the Kyrgyz Republic – Existing policies and current challenges

Current situation overview.

Since independence, the Kyrgyz Republic has developed a large amount of legislation regulating the governance of migration processes in accordance with international legal instruments ratified by the Kyrgyz Republic and its assumed international commitments.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, events of 2021 in Afghanistan, and those in early 2022 in Kazakhstan, as well as the current tragic events in Ukraine and Russia, have fundamentally affected migration trends in Central Asia, effectively destroying the tourism industry, curtailing business travel, and significantly complicating labour migration, even in countries that have not been directly affected by military activities. Travel restrictions, border closures and the tightening of travel requirements include not just those for leisure, but those related to medical treatment, studying and work as well.

Due to the fact that external migration is of paramount importance for maintaining the economic well-being of a large number of citizens and families in the Kyrgyz republic, as well as that of the country as a whole, it seems especially vital at this most difficult time that the state's migration governance instruments are both well maintained and sufficiently adaptable to meet the ever-changing situation, as this dynamism presents more and more risks for future migration governance.

Particularly important in such a setting are legislative activities and work on developing the state institutions responsible for implementation of Kyrgyzstan's migration policy. This overview is designed to render assistance to the state in tracking new migration trends and in providing timely reflection on future legislation of migration governance, as well as protection of migrants' rights as one of the most vulnerable groups in society.

Legislative and policy frameworks governing migration in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic on external migration governance is quite effective, reflecting the basic structure of the state's legal system and mainly directed at the protection and promotion of Kyrgyz migrant workers' rights abroad.

Kyrgyzstan has ratified many **international legal instruments**, allowing it to adapt international legal standards that are contained within these to national legislation. Amongst these is the **UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**. This Convention obliges the ratifying countries to actively protect migrant workers' rights, including collecting information on issues which arise, analysing these, and responding to all violations of the UN Convention.

The **Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Member States** was adopted in 2008 in Chisinau and ratified by the Kyrgyz Republic in the year 2009. This Convention is purely regional in nature. For Kyrgyzstan, where most external migration is to Russia and Kazakhstan, it serves as an instrument for protecting the rights of migrant workers and their family members in the CIS states, as well as for envisaging cooperation between parties in matters of medical insurance for migrant workers.

One of the main ideas of the **1949 ILO Convention on Migrant Workers** is the recognition by states that have ratified this document of the equality of migrants, regardless of their nationality, race, religion, or gender, etc.

In 2020, Kyrgyzstan signed the **UN-initiated Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** (Global Compact for Migration), which is the first international and non-legally binding framework for cooperation in the area of migration. The Global Compact for Migration is directed towards promoting international cooperation by defining the guidelines and providing of multilateral policy-oriented mechanisms. The document addresses a wide range of aspects related to migration such as oversight of border crossings, illegal ingress and trafficking of human beings, paperwork for migrants, repatriation, and readmission, as well as diasporas and monetary transfers.

The external labour migration processes in the Kyrgyz Republic are governed by the following **main regulatory legal texts**:

1. The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 5 May 2021.
2. International agreements that were ratified by the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic.
3. The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On External Migration” dated 17 July 2000, No. 61. In this Law, the definition of migration is provided, legal relations regarding external migration are regulated, and the legal framework for external migration in the Kyrgyz Republic is defined.
4. The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On External Labour Migration” dated 13 January 2006, No. 4. This Law establishes the departure procedure for citizens in pursuit of employment abroad, covers the attraction of foreign labour to the Kyrgyz Republic, determines the legal protection norms, and regulates the implementation of the migrant workers’ activity procedure.
5. The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic” dated 14 December 1993, No. 1296-XII. This Law establishes the basic rights, freedoms, and responsibilities of foreign citizens in the Kyrgyz Republic.
6. The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic” dated December 18, 1993, No. 1333-XII. This Law establishes the grounds, conditions, and procedures for acquiring and terminating citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic. It also regulates other issues related to citizenship, as well as many other regulatory legal texts and secondary by-laws.

As the basis for resolving the migration crisis caused by the pandemic and other no less dramatic events, some other existing and recently adopted documents that relate to migration require mention.

The National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic 2018-2040 identifies key migration-related policy issues including: 1) preserving the ethno-cultural identity of migrant workers; 2) organizing the voluntary resettlement process of ethnic Kyrgyz to the Kyrgyz Republic on the basis of principles that promote the socio-economic development of the regions and resolution of demographic issues; and 3) improving the granting of immigrant status to foreign citizens who arrived in the Kyrgyz Republic with the intent to engage in scientific work, the goal of permanent residence, or who contribute to the development of the Kyrgyz Republic’s culture.

According to this document, in terms of external migration, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic will consider the development opportunities of different labour markets for our workers so as to not be limited to the labour markets of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. It will also seek to assist Kyrgyz Republic citizens in achieving competitiveness in labour markets abroad (in Great Britain, Poland, Germany, other countries), and provide them with legal and economic protection in the country of destination. In the Strategy, there is an emphasis on creating the necessary conditions for migrant workers to invest their savings in the Kyrgyz Republic’s economy, including in some prospective industries, enterprises and manufactures of Kyrgyzstan.

The Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic “Unity. Trust. Creation” 2018-2022 includes a migration policy component to ensure the economic well-being of the people. It is focused on the creation of improved provision of the rights and interests of the Republic’s citizens and citizens of other countries during the migration process, the creation of employment

conditions, the provision of high-quality public services in the area labour and labour migration, and the achievement of gender equality.

According to the decree of the President, within the context of the “**Mekendeshter**” **Compatriots Forum** under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the government has established a Council for Relations with Compatriots Abroad.

On 29 January 2021, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic signed the Decree “**On The Taking of Measures Directed at Improvement of the Migration Situation.**” The document defines as a priority goal the provision of comprehensive support to labour migrants in host countries and protection of interests and rights of migrants’ families in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Government was assigned a number of tasks, including the intensification of activity to protect the rights and interests of migrants working abroad, applying measures for the provision of record keeping, oversight, and the protection of the rights and interests of children whose parents are involved in labour migration. It also includes provisions for the guaranteed protection by the state for “labour migrants’ children” as well as the development and submission for consideration of the draft of the Migration Policy Concept Document of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Implementation of the latest state **Migration Policy Concept Document** was completed in 2010. In the ensuing decade plus, a number of key events have taken place ,including Kyrgyzstan joining the Treaty on the EAEU in 2015 and the pandemic beginning at the end of 2019. Over this period, a Kyrgyzstan’s migration ‘image’ has transformed, new migration trends have emerged, and with this, new risks and challenges have appeared. In the year 2021, the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic submitted for public discussion a draft Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Approval of the Concept of the Migration Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for the years 2020-2030”.

Migration is a dynamic process which is constantly changing in accordance with external and internal conditions. According to this document, the new conceptualization of migration in national development 2020-2030 is longer-term, and the document includes a system of goals, priority directions and tasks that are based on adherence to norms of human rights and freedoms, and protection of the national interests of Kyrgyzstan.

The **core goal** of Kyrgyzstan’s migration policy is the stabilization of migration processes through the implementation of state programs that are aimed at mitigating the adverse factors causing and accompanying migration, as well as by creating conditions for maximal implementation of migration-related capacities for the good of the country’s development.

Priority directions and tasks in the Concept document include:

- improvement of conditions for implementation by the country’s citizens, compatriots, immigrants, and persons without citizenship of educational, vocational, professional, and cultural capacities and opportunities in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- engagement of the migration-related capacities of the public, compatriots, immigrants, and persons without citizenship for the development of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- creation of a protection system for the rights of Kyrgyz Republic citizens who are outside the country, as well as of the immigrants, compatriots and persons without citizenship who are present in the country’s territory;
- creation of a safe migration environment;
- enhancement of legislation on migration;
- informational support for the implementation of migration policy and creation of an effective migration data registry system.

The Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 4 May 2021, No. 191, ratified the **Concept Document of the Migration Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2020-2030**. Due to the pre-pandemic design of document, it does not include an assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration processes in the Kyrgyz Republic, the migration governance risks in such a context, or the ways to tackle these. Moreover, the new agencies that are responsible for the migration policy’s implementation, in accordance with their mandate, consider our workers abroad only as citizens that are outside the Kyrgyz Republic, but not as the migrant workers. Quite a

unique situation has been established, with the Concept Document developed by one agency, but implemented by another state agency within the context of its amended mandate and in a completely altered migration situation, as the 2021-2022 global events have undoubtedly had a lasting impact on the migration trends both in the region and internationally.

Institutional basis for migration governance.

The protests that took place against the results of the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan in October 2020 brought about a change in state governance. As an outcome, the voting results were annulled, President Zheenbekov resigned, and constitutional reform plans were undertaken. Over the short period of time from January to April 2021, the citizens of Kyrgyzstan expressed their will in determining the future of the country. This occurred twice. On 10 January 2021 a vote was held on the form of government in the country and the election of the new President of the Kyrgyz Republic; and on 11 April 2021 a referendum was held regarding the adoption of the new Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. This referendum was set to establish a presidential form of governance which accorded the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Japarov Sadyr Nurgozhoevich, special powers.

On 5 May 2021, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic signed the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 59 “On the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic,” which was adopted by referendum on 11 April 2021. Based on this document, in connection with the Constitution’s entry into force, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was considered to have resigned. The President also signed Decree No. 114 on 5 May 2021 “On the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.” By this Decree, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was transformed into the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Decree also defined the structure of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Pursuant to this Decree, the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was abolished, and its representative office in the Russian Federation was closed, with the staff transferred to the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Russian Federation. The functions of migration policy formation and implementation were then transferred to the Department of External Migration under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Ministry of Labour, Social Provision and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic subsequently became the newly authorized agency for combating human trafficking as well as working with refugees and those being resettled.

The development of a legislative basis for migration governance also includes the creation of an institutional basis to regulate the country’s activities and direct them towards achieving the core strategic goal of the state’s migration policy. The state institutions, such as the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities, as well as ministries and departments that are implementing the policies, should hold the relevant powers and responsibilities concerned with implementation of the state migration strategy.

Assistance to the authorized state agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic in the implementation of the state’s migration strategy and in promotion of migrant workers’ rights is rendered by the following **UN agencies and the international organizations:** the IOM, UNODC, ILO, UNICEF, UN Women, OSCE, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) within the context of their missions, powers, and mandates.

Migration governance in force majeure circumstances and the taking of security-related measures.

The commitments to international migrants' rights made by countries must also be observed under the introduction of a state of emergency. Only in cases when a state of emergency which threatens the nation's life is declared, does international human rights law allow countries to step away from certain human rights commitments. Even in such cases however, this must be done in accordance with the observation of certain conditions, such as necessity, proportionality, non-discrimination, and time constraints.

At the same time, some rights must be observed under all circumstances. Rights that cannot be abrogated from include the following: the right to life, freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom from slavery and servitude, freedom from imprisonment in connection with non-compliance with contractual obligations, freedom from the retroactive effect of criminal law, the right to recognize one's own legal personality and the right to the freedom of thought, conscience and religion (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 6, 7, 8.1, 8.2, 11, 15, 16 and 18); the right to life, freedom from torture and cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom from slavery or servitude, and freedom from the retroactive effect of criminal law (the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Articles 2, 3, 4.1 and 7). In addition, Member States cannot step away from their obligation to treat all persons, including those deprived of their liberty, with humanity and respect for human dignity, and must pay particular attention to the adequacy of health and medical assistance in places of detention, as well as the rights of persons in freedom deprivation settings.

According to Article 4 of the Covenant, states, when abrogating from their commitments for purposes such as limiting the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, are obliged to notify the UN Human Rights Committee. In Kyrgyzstan, there is a regulatory-legal basis which determines the procedure for declaring a state of emergency. After declaring a state of emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kyrgyz Republic followed the procedure of notification concerning its departures from its human rights commitments under international treaties. Thus, the country notified the UN Secretary-General of temporary restrictions to human rights as specified under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Civil Protection" and "On Public Health" identify a list of the restrictions to rights and freedoms which can be applied to a person and a citizen in the event of the introduction of restrictive measures (such as quarantine) where there exists the threat of the emergence and spread of infectious diseases.

Indeed, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented situation took place in terms of consequences and complexity, in which not only the countries of the migrant worker origin suffered, but also countries of destination. Each of these were equally unprepared, legislatively, institutionally or even operationally, to withstand a disaster of such magnitude. At the time the pandemic was declared, the migration policies and legislation of these countries did not contain ways to overcome such risks. Lacking the relevant expertise and practical experience, countries were nevertheless forced to start taking immediate steps.

Many measures were undertaken to overcome restrictions to migrants' rights in both the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation, the main destination country for labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan. The legal status of working migrants residing in the Russian Federation during the pandemic was legally established, providing for an array of measures that allowed migrants with expired documents or a completed work status to remain legally on the territory of the Russian Federation and imposing a temporary suspension on expulsions, as well as on deportations for the violation of migration-related legislation.

The range of such measures was continuously expanded through legislation as migrants were granted the right to be exempt from payment of work permit fees for three months, and then again for the next three months, with the validity of different permits extended for a further three months, until 15 June 2021. Thus, the necessary support was provided and, importantly, the will

of the state was expressed in support of such a vulnerable category as foreign citizens during the challenging times of an extended recession, dramatic decline in production, and deceleration in the economy.

By the Order of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 29 April 2020, No. 1170-r “On Introduction of Amendments to Certain Orders of the Government of the Russian Federation” amendments were introduced to the Order of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 16 March 2020, No. 635-r “On Temporary Restrictions for Entry into the Russian Federation of Foreign Citizens and Persons without Citizenship, as well as Temporary Suspension of Registration and Issuance of Visas and Invitations,” in accordance with which the travel restrictions outside of the Russian Federation were not applied to Russian Federation citizens that also held citizenship of another country or a residence permit or other valid document confirming the right to permanent residence in another country in terms of the right to a single departure from the Russian Federation to the place of permanent residence.

Kyrgyzstan also eased permissions for foreign citizens staying in its territory. In accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 19 May 2020, No. 256 “On Issues of Provision of the Public with Identification Documents for the Citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic, Foreign Citizens and Persons without Citizenship,” the period of registration validity for foreign citizens was extended for the duration of the state of emergency. At the end of the state of emergency, foreign citizens and persons without citizenship who expressed a willingness to extend their stay on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic were given the right to renew their registration within ten working days.

By Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 14 April 2021, No. 89-r, entry into the Kyrgyz Republic was granted to citizens of EAEU member states who arrived via border crossings at the Manas, Osh and Issyk-Kul international airports of the Kyrgyz Republic provided they presented negative test results for COVID-19 displayed in the mobile application “I travel with no COVID-19.”

According to the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, foreign citizens who were normally entitled to visa-free stay if their period of stay in the Kyrgyz Republic did not exceed 60 days, were exempt from registration at their place of residence with the authorized state agencies. For citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan, this period is equal to 90 days. In general, Kyrgyzstan determines this time range with other states on a reciprocal basis.

In cases where foreign citizens exceed the period of stay on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic, they must register at their place of residence with the Department of Population Registration under the State Registration Service, which then issues a registration card.

All immigrants, regardless of their legal status, have equal access to healthcare and education in Kyrgyzstan with the country’s citizens, as envisaged under the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens.”

Permanent residents and persons with work permits have access to social security payments and retirement payments. Family reunification permission is accessible to all immigrants, regardless of their visa type or residence status, provided they can support their family members.

All permanent and temporary residents with work permits can be self-employed or work in the private or public sector, though they are not allowed to hold management positions in government institutions or to work as judges, in law enforcement agencies, or in defence agencies.

All immigrants are eligible to file an application for permanent residence after five years of continuous residence in the country. Subject to compliance with all other requirements of the Kyrgyz Republic’s legislation on citizenship, such immigrants are entitled to apply for acquisition of citizenship.

After the unpredictable and rapid closure of state borders both for countries of origin and destination during the pandemic, and following the revolution of October 2020 (the third in 30 years since Kyrgyzstan’s independence) and subsequent period of resolute political and administrative reforms in the country, many citizens, and migrant workers in particular, determined that they and their family members should acquire Russian citizenship. As of 24 July

2020, the Law of the Russian Federation “On Citizenship of the Russian Federation” no longer provided for the acquisition of the citizenship by many categories of persons who previously held the right under the law in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.

This new legislation, as well as the difficulty (for labour, family, or finance reasons) for many of going to Russia to deal with issues of Russian citizenship acquisition, has led to a significant intensification of the “Compatriots” program, the only possible way of remaining in Kyrgyzstan while obtaining Russian citizenship in an accelerated way. As the “compatriot” concept within this program’s context has a broad definition and can be applied to all Kyrgyz migrant workers in Russia, many migrant workers set themselves the goal of obtaining citizenship under this program.

Under these current circumstances, many migrants may knowingly agree to lower-paid work with low-grade labour conditions, and there remains a risk of a massive outflow of able-bodied adults from the Kyrgyz Republic to the Russian Federation or the Republic of Kazakhstan, with some migrants working in more shadowy sectors of the economy. This will negatively affect the ability to protect their rights on the part of both the state and non-profit organizations. In general, accepting such work also carries the risk of moving these migrants to the category of persons residing illegally in the country of destination.

The current mechanisms of finding organized employment for labour migrants in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan do not provide great advantages in comparison to other methods of searching for work, and this reduces the competitiveness of such services.

Since the day the Russian troops entered Ukraine, the value of the Russian rouble has dropped by about one fifth, and specialists predict an economic slump of 5 to 10 percent for this year with an ongoing recession for 2023. The World Bank forecast in March 2022 that the real value of monetary transfers sent to Central Asia would fall by 22 percent this year. This factor makes the economy of Kyrgyzstan even more dependent on the current state of the Russian labour market, especially given the background of continuously high unemployment in Kyrgyzstan.

Regional and international cooperation on migration governance.

In the Central Asian region, there are many geopolitical factors, both external and internal, that influence migration trends and the development of national migration policies. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are member states of an extensive regional globalization-oriented association – the EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union). EAEU influence on migration processes in the region is hard to overestimate. One of the most significant features of this association is the free movement of labour between EAEU member states, lending labour migrants access to a large labour market across the EAEU’s five member states (Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan). Moreover, the labour rights for labour migrants from EAEU members states are equal to the labour rights for national workers in countries of destination under this association, a fact bound to attract even more migration from Kyrgyzstan to Russia and Kazakhstan.

Following **Kyrgyzstan’s accession to the EAEU in 2015**, legislation on labour migration and migration policy was aligned with the Treaty’s norms under the Union. One of the goals for the creation of the EAEU, along with freedom of movement of goods, services, and capital, was the freedom of movement of labour. The EAEU Treaty (Section XXVI “Labour Migration”) ensures freedom of labour migration and obliges Member States to cooperate in policy coordination on labour migration, as well as to assist in organizing recruitment and engagement of workers in labour activities throughout the Treaty states. The Treaty regulates the development of a common policy on labour migration, establishes common labour market across its Member States, and ensures equal labour rights for migrant workers with workers in the destination countries, including the provision of social security, medical care, work experience credit (insurance based), export of retirement plans.

The Treaty's norms provide an opportunity to render free of charge emergency and regular medical assistance (in situations of emergency and urgency) to workers and their family members, regardless of whether they have a medical insurance certificate. There is also a provision for medical evacuation, and reimbursement of the medical organization's expenses for emergency medical care provision to Member State workers at the expense of the state's budget where employment is taking place. Furthermore, direct recognition of educational documents is ensured (with some exceptions currently subject to negotiation), and workers' children living with them on the territory of the country of employment are also entitled to attend preschool institutions and receive education in accordance with the legislation of the country of employment.

In the context of preparatory work for membership in this association, an Agreement was developed and signed between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation "On the Procedure for the Stay of Kyrgyz Republic Citizens on the Territory of the Russian Federation and for Russian Federation Citizens on the Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated 19 June 2015. The document provides for the possibility of citizens' registration-free presence for 30 days.

The purpose of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, in which Kyrgyzstan is a Member State, is to counter separatism, terrorism, the arms trade, drug smuggling, and human trafficking, as well as other regional security issues. Migration is not covered under the mandate of this organization and can be viewed on its agenda only in the context of migration correlated with security issues throughout the region.

Under the SCO, Kyrgyzstan is taking part in several regional advisory processes such as the **Almaty process**, **Budapest process** and **Prague process**. These processes serve the purpose of advisory forums to promote cooperation and coordination amongst the Member States in addressing migration-related issues.

Recommendations for decision makers in the area of migration governance and the implementation of Migration Strategy in Kyrgyzstan.

1. The most significant issue within Eurasian migration systems over the past five years has been temporary labour migration from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to Russia (the main area of inflow) and to Kazakhstan. Even given uncertainty due to conflict in Afghanistan and the events in Kazakhstan and Ukraine, it is likely that in the short- to mid-term spans this situation will not change dramatically. One of the urgent tasks therefore remains the protection of the rights of labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan in the countries of destination (mainly Russia) and the necessary strengthening and realization of existing bilateral agreements between Kyrgyzstan and Russia, as well as within intergovernmental associations such as the EAEU and CIS.

2. The gradual digitalization of services for migrants, which is being promoted both in Kyrgyzstan and in Russia (for example, the unified employment search engine "Work without Borders" for the EAEU), has a high degree of importance in protecting labour migrants' rights. Unification of accumulated experience and the promotion of the new digital services is an important area for work in the short- to long-term.

3. It is vital to establish and maintain existing ties (economic, business, and tourism development-related) not only with communities of labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan in Russia, but also with citizens/residents of the Russian Federation who left Kyrgyzstan for Russia after 1991. An extensive approach to working with different communities from Kyrgyzstan in Russia can bring about additional positive effects, strengthening mutually beneficial connections at the macroeconomic level inter-governmentally, and at the microeconomic level of individual enterprises and organizations.

4. Database creation for the graduates of universities of the former Kyrgyz SSR and universities of independent Kyrgyzstan currently residing in Russia is key. Work with graduates that currently

live in Russian Federation should be viewed as a valuable resource for the mutually beneficial economic development of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation, strengthening cooperation in the area of academic mobility and building up the scientific capacity of Kyrgyzstan.

5. While working with migrants from Kyrgyzstan in Russia, it is important to cooperate not only with the national and cultural associations of the people of Kyrgyzstan, but also with Russia-based non-governmental organizations that are rendering direct assistance to the labour migrants, including with representative offices of the international organizations that are working in Russia in the area of migration.

6. In the context of sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation by a number of Western countries, a new range of economic development opportunities is opening up for Kyrgyzstan. The development of the textile industry, the development of the agro-industrial industry with repositioning of agricultural processing industries from Russia to Kyrgyzstan, and the development of new logistical chains with the new destination as Kyrgyzstan replacing those disrupted from Russia as a result of sanctions will help create new job opportunities in Kyrgyzstan and partially reduce migration rates from Kyrgyzstan to Russia. It is important to swiftly put in place these opportunities, taking advantage of them as early as 2022 in order to attract investments from Russia to Kyrgyzstan, as well as engaging in the possibilities present under intergovernmental associations such as the EAEU.

7. In the current context, it is necessary to examine those advantages that appear for Kyrgyzstan's economic development with the in-migration of a large number of highly skilled IT and other specialists from Russia. This could include providing them with the means to pay reduced taxes in Kyrgyzstan in order to encourage them to apply their knowledge and skills here and attract further investment.

8. With the recent decrease in money transfers by migrants, the significance of migration policy promotion has become very important. This includes focusing on the observance of labour migrant rights, expansion of migrant mobility opportunities under current conditions including the search for alternatives to Russia, continuation of work to remove labour migrants from the "black lists" (bans for entering the destination country), achievement of actual equality in labour rights with national workers of countries of destination, and improvement of labour migrants' professional skills and qualifications.

9. It is necessary to think about the fact that migration policy should also provide for the creation of jobs within a country, the development of a favourable investment climate for migrant workers in their home countries, the introduction of low interest rates on loans and the use of money transfers for the development of small and medium-sized businesses on the territory of Kyrgyzstan, and the use of savings in agriculture. All of this involves the engagement of the capacities, acquired skills, and qualifications of returning migrants in the development of their home country. In general, attention needs to be given to development of soft conditions that encourage investments by migrants into the sustainable well-being of their communities and families.