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IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations

**IOM message to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, the Northern Dimension  
Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS)**

Your Excellency, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, Honourable Ministers, Representatives of Partner Agencies, Members of Diplomatic Community, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and its Migration Health Division, I would like to express my warmest greetings to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) and wish a very productive meeting.

The outstanding commitment of the Northern Dimension Partnership to reduce non-communicable diseases through promotion of healthier life style and improvement of social and work environments are the noticeable landmarks of the passing year. Strong regional and sub - regional partnership between the governments and collaborating organizations has been identified as a priority instrument in achieving the health goals.

IOM is committed to serving migrants and mobile populations. The objectives identified within Northern Dimension Partnership echoes with the spirit and principles of Migration Health assistance, which is an essential element of IOM practice. The Organization works in close partnership on promoting migrant sensitive policies that improve migrants' access to health services, finding sustainable solutions to address conditions of public health concern, improving knowledge of determinants and health outcomes for mobile populations through research and enhancement of national and international surveillance information systems.

Population mobility is a reality of the modern world, in everyday life migrants are connected in many ways with communities in the host country or territory. Addressing health needs of migrant groups is beneficial for the population of transit, host and return countries and requires coordinated and consistent joint efforts. We are confident that the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Social Development of Russian Federation and IOM will open new avenues for future collaboration and new initiatives.

I would like to reaffirm to you that the International Organization for Migration sincerely supports the initiatives of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being and will continue to work with governments and partner organizations in the domain of health.

Thank you.

Dr. Igor Kazanets, Chief Migration Health Physician, IOM, Office in Moscow