

6th session of the Forum on Minority Issues

V. Promotion of constructive interfaith dialogue, consultation and exchange

Religious Board of Muslims of the European part of Russia

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Currently, Muslims represent twenty millions of 140 million residents of the Russian Federation. The situation of Muslims in Russia is quite diverse. The majority of Muslims are indigenous too Russia and adopted Islam since the 7th century. Today, Muslims represent the majority in seven entities of the Russian Federation, in Chechenia, (...), Kazakhstan (...) in three of these the Muslims represent the overwhelming majority. The problems of the Northern Caucasus where five of these republics are represent the area of security and economy. There is a high level of unemployment and violence also. Tatarstan and (...) are amongst the most developed regions in Russian and here, the Muslims represent a little over half of the population. In these republics where Muslims are a majority, they are opening of mosques and educational facilities, including vocational facilities, and this is quite easy. However, in urban centres this is more difficult. However, we can say that up to the recent part there were only a hundred mosques but now there are over 10,000 in Russia. Education in the national language of minorities is now practiced, however, again in cities far more difficult and in the republic, I mentioned earlier the situation is far more difficult where there is discrimination against migrants. Given the fact that there is this discrimination, there is also corruption when these migrants are employed in Russia there is a problem that arises from the indeterminacy of their legal status and their day a day violent acts that are experienced by migrants. However, due to the shrinking level of (...) in Russia, the one million people migrating to find work or in central to keep the economy of Russia working. Over the three years there is a migrant-phobia and islamophobia against the population of the Northern Caucasus, these populations are being accused of being opponents and engaging in terrorist acts. And this leads to the fact that Russia has is now setting upon in a position against the Muslim world. We call upon Russia to provide for education and we recognise that in the representative of various confessions are invited. We recognise that help is a times given to other religion and this should also be the case.