

**Statement of the First Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of
the Russian Federation Olga Batalina
at the 7th session of the Committee on Social Development (ESCAP)**

September 6-8, 2022, Bangkok (Thailand)

Good afternoon, dear colleagues!

First, I want to note that the Russian Federation has taken effective measures to implement the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific, endorsed by the Committee at its sixth session in October 2020.

Our key and unchanging priority is the growth of the well-being and quality of life of our citizens. The essence of approaches to social policy in Russia can be reduced to one key principle - human-centeredness. We are aimed at taking into account the life situation of a citizen and an integrated approach when organizing support or providing services.

The most important priority of the state policy is the protection of motherhood and childhood. A holistic system of support for families with children is being built. Families with low incomes can take advantage of monthly assistance from the moment of expectation of a child until his 17th birthday. This year, 10 million children will be covered by such payments.

Our goal is not only to support the family in current expenses, but also to help solve housing issues, as well as to form a permanent, long-term source of income.

One of the key tools for improving housing conditions remains maternity capital. Since the start of the program, more than 12 million families have received maternity capital certificates.

Another direction for ensuring family income is the development of a state system for promoting employment. Since last year, work has been underway to switch to uniform standards. The main services of employment centers are already available online. There is a gradual transformation of employment centers into modern recruitment agencies that are able not only to find a vacancy, but also to help a person build a career, and for an enterprise to solve a full range of tasks related to recruitment.

A direction that also requires an integrated approach is support for citizens with disabilities.

For employable citizens with disabilities, the procedure for quoting jobs has been changed. Now the employer cannot consider the quota fulfilled simply by the fact of the introduction of positions in the manning table. It is necessary that a citizen with a disability be actually employed.

Moreover, from January 1 of this year, the disability pension is proactive, that is, a citizen does not need to apply to a branch of the Pension Fund of Russia.

On July 1 this year, a new procedure for the examination of persons with disabilities was introduced. A citizen will be able to choose independently how to pass the examination: in person or in absentia.

The next area of work is the development of social services for older citizens. In addition to the traditional provision of social services at home, within the framework of the national project "Demography" we are developing three areas.

The first is the "Active Longevity" program. The second is the development of a network of state boarding houses so that the living conditions in them are as close as possible to those at home. The third direction is the development of a long-term care system. Relatives will also receive additional opportunities, who sometimes remain alone with all issues related specifically to organization and care.

We will continue to work consistently to improve social protection, based on the immutability of national goals.

Thank you for attention!