



S T A T E M E N T

**by H.E. Mr. Alexandru CUJBA, Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Moldova to the UN at the 47th session of the Commission for Social Development**

4 February 2009

Mrs. Chairperson,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate You and the members of the Bureau of the 47th session of the Commission for Social Development on Your election and to express our readiness to cooperate and bring our contribution to the efforts directed to the improvement of the situation in the areas of employment, fight against poverty and promotion of social integration. The Republic of Moldova associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

Mrs. Chairperson,

My delegation highly appreciates the activity of the Commission as the key UN body monitoring the implementation of the core goals set in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit for Social Development. We welcome the Secretary General's report on the policy cycle 2009/2010 – promoting social integration, as well as other reports submitted by the SG on the related topics of the CSD to be discussed during the current session.

Distinguished delegates,

The World Summit for Social Development characterized social integration in the context of creating “a society for all”, where every individual has rights, responsibilities and an active role to play. Such a society, as noted in the Programme of Action of the WSSD, “must be based on respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural and religious diversity, social justice and the special

needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, democratic participation and the rule of law". Today, in the midst of the global financial crisis, there is an urgent need for strengthening international cooperation based on the principles of non-discrimination, open competitiveness, a transparent access for all to the global markets and fair and just rules for international trade in order to contribute to sustainable employment, growth and a better social integration. It is also imperative to work towards closer integration between economic and social policies, both at the national and international levels.

Mrs. Chairperson,

The Government of the Republic of Moldova fully subscribes under the commitments adopted through the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. In this regard, a number of measures and actions responding to the today's needs have been undertaken by my Government in cooperation with its social partners. Thus, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, with joint efforts of the Council of Europe and the International Labour Organization, undertook an evaluation of the employment policy at the national level. As a result, a number of recommendations for improvement of labour market and social policies have been developed; several national strategies, programmes and plans targeting more vulnerable groups have been implemented. Among them are those in the field of prevention and reduction of unemployment amid the young people; social rehabilitation and integration into social life of persons with disabilities; protection of and assistance to victims of human trafficking.

In compliance with the Recommendation of the Council of Europe "*To promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015*", and with the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the Government of the Republic of Moldova builds up its normative framework with the purpose of promoting and developing services, as well as offering real opportunities for social inclusion of disabled persons. Accordingly, the National Strategy and the Action Plan for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, for the period 2009 – 2013, which is a complex document that makes references to the reforms and actions to be undertaken in all areas in order to achieve social inclusion of persons with disabilities has been drafted.

A number of efforts have been undertaken by Moldovan Government, in order to cope with human trafficking, including the establishment of an ad hoc National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the local multi-disciplinary anti-trafficking committees in 32 districts of Moldova and sub-working groups on prevention, protection, legislation, and child trafficking. In 2006, the National Referral System (NRS) was established, having the role to ensure that those returning from a

trafficking experience have access to the confidential and comprehensive help, support in rebuilding their lives, and opportunities for further integration into society.

Protection and promotion of the rights of the child, as well as social integration of children, especially those from vulnerable families, remain core priorities on the national agenda. To improve situation in this area, the Government has adopted the National Strategy "Education for all", which helped to increase access to quality primary and secondary schools; passed several laws, aiming to protect child victims of abuse, violence, trafficking and exploitation; started to restructure the child care residential system, in order to mitigate the number of child institutionalization. The Government also makes efforts to ensure youth development, its better integration into society, increase of the employment rate among young people, and offering an equal access to education, market places and healthcare system, all that being stipulated in the National Development Strategy, Poverty Reduction Strategy, as well as in a range of other relevant laws and policies adopted in this regard at the national level.

Mrs. Chairperson,

The Government of the Republic of Moldova is fully committed to increase its endeavors and further promote social integration at all levels and in all areas. We are confident that social protection of the most vulnerable groups of people, people at risk, as well as children and youth is a prerequisite for combating poverty, promoting greater social cohesion and reducing social risks.

Thank you.