

**Statement to the Commission on Population and Development
Acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session
of the General Assembly**

As written



ROMANIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by

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*Commission on Population and Development acting as the
Preparatory Committee for the special Session of the General Assembly
for the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the
Programme of Action of the International Conference on
Population and Development*

New York, 25 March, 1999

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, let me congratulate you on your election as a Chairman Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the ICPD+5 and the excellent way of conducting this important meeting, as well as the other members of the Bureau. I would like to extend my appreciation to the DESA and UNFPA Secretariat who have worked so hard for preparing this **PrepCom** meeting.

My delegation entirely supports the statement delivered yesterday by Germany on behalf of the European Union and the associated states to the European Union.

Taking the floor we want to bring to your attention some aspects of our experience in population related activities at national level, including the implementation of Cairo Programme of Action.

For Romania, a country that hosted the first International Conference on Population in 1974, the ICPD was a milestone marking the change from a demographic to a democratic approach for population related issues.

The demographic evolution during the last years was influenced by a complex of factors, among which it has to be mentioned: freedom of couples to decide upon the desired number and spacing of their children, high economic and social costs supported by population during the transition period, the housing crisis and the low access of young people to an own dwelling, the changes in population behaviour with respect to family formation and dissolution, the social unstableness and unemployment, the external migration.

The Government aware of the significant changes in the age structure due to the accelerated process of demographic ageing is currently undertaking reforms of the pension system and initiated social assistant measures.

The 1998 was the first year in the **Romanian** history characterized by migration from urban to rural areas, which determined the need for designing special rural development programmes with integrated social and medical measures.

Romania is party to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and all the other relevant international human rights instruments. Romania is committed to safeguard that human rights of women and girls, including economic, social and reproductive rights are protected through the development of effective implementation of gender sensitive policies and legislation.

The present economic and social difficulties from Romania are strongly influencing the level of demographic indicators as well as the health status of the population. As consequence, the health care units should insure an increased volume of medical services under the circumstances of scarce financial resources. Currently the health care system is in* a fundamental reform process and restructuring, from a centralized state owned system to a health insurance system. The state will continue to support a number of health related programmes, including reproductive health and child-care programme, STD prevention programme and health promotion.

Romania is currently reviewing the legal framework regulations and guide lines concerning NGO's. The Government is adopting policy measures in order to facilitate the involvement of civil society in policy discussions and in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes. In order to implement the ICPD Programme of Action, the Government makes efforts to mobilize the necessary resources from all stakeholders.

Taking into consideration the well-extended health infrastructure and the significant number of qualified personnel, Romania needs a ~~temporary~~^{continuous} access to international assistance in order to ensure the implementation of Cairo Programme of Action.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, we would like to emphasize the good cooperation and partnership between the Division of Population and the United Nations Population Fund in the preparatory process of the Special Session. Both have salient contributions in the study and knowledge of the population problems, as well as in the action to cope with these problems. In the last decades, their valuable work enabled us to have the real dimension of the problem and of the efforts required to solve it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman