



STATEMENT

**by Mr. Andrei Nicolenco, Head of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies
Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the
Republic of Moldova**

**at the General Debate on agenda item 3
of the 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development**

(10 - 14 April 2022, New York)

*Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

At the outset, I am honoured to address the Commission and I wish to thank you and the other members of the Bureau for your hard work in guiding the preparation of this CPD session.

By presiding over the 56th session of the Commission the Republic of Moldova is keen to further contribute to the comprehensive review of ICPD POA implementation and will do its utmost to facilitate the accomplishment of the meaningful and action-oriented outcome.

Through Agenda 2030 we committed to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all by putting people's dignity and well-being at the center of our efforts towards achieving sustainable development. The ICPD Programme of Action reinforces this pledge and represents an important blueprint to make this commitment a reality.

It is worth to note that despite all combined crises that we have faced in recent few years, progress has been made in many key areas, including on access to sexual and reproductive health care, reduction of child and maternal mortality, extension of life expectancy, advances in gender equality and access to quality education.

Coming from a region that is at the forefront of global demographic transformation from population growth to population ageing coupled with complex migration flows as well as low fertility rates and being severely impacted by the war in Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova remains firmly committed to the ICPD goals and the promotion of the right to education for all.

Mr. Chairman

Nowadays, human capital is the most valuable asset of any country, which is measured not in numbers, but in quality of education, skills and talents of its population.

Access to quality education for all, adjusted to the labor market requirements, are critical to prevent people from falling into poverty and ensure a future at home.

The Moldovan Government is working to refocus its education system towards this goal through training qualified staff in line with the needs of the private sector, improving the educational policies and institutional framework to support the implementation of demand-driven technical vocational system (VET) and developing partnerships between the labor market and the VET institutions.

As education is fundamental to human development and social progress, our commitment after the pandemics is two-fold: first to recover the educational losses caused by Covid-19 and, second, to build a better system based on the valuable lessons that we all learned.

Consistent with the commitments announced at the Transforming Education Summit in September last year here in New York, the Government of the Republic of Moldova has recently adopted the Education Strategy 2030 aiming to build a performant, inclusive, equitable, safe and healthy learning environment.

In this respect, the public expenditures on education will continue to be increased, with the goal to expand life-long learning opportunities, programs for validation of previously acquired competencies and digital literacy for adults.

Distinguished delegates,

Regretfully, Russia's ruthless war against Ukraine, our neighbouring country, continue to cause irreversible damage, shifting effort and resources towards crisis management. Since the beginning of the war, almost 800.000 refugees, mostly women and children have crossed the Moldovan border, more than 80,000 chose to stay in Moldova, half of them being children who require special protection.

Our country remains firmly committed and engaged in providing protection for those seeking refuge in Moldova. The launch of the temporary protection regime is meant to facilitate access to fundamental social, health and educational services, protection against abuses and discrimination, with the overarching aim to ensure social cohesion.

We are mindful that the demographic challenges in our country are fuelling concerns about future economic growth and significant pressure on the existing social protection system. Thus, focus on both youth and gender equality are the key entry points in new national policies towards sustainability.

To overcome these challenges, in recent time following measure were undertaken: adoption of the national strategy for the development of youth sector until 2030, law on alternative childcare services, employers were granted the right to create alternative childcare services, regulation of flexible working arrangements, extension of period to benefit of paternal leave, additional options for granting the right to monthly childcare allowance.

The elderly population constitutes about 23% of the total population of the Republic of Moldova, and demographic forecasts show that their share will continue to increase in the coming years. As population ageing impacts all spheres of society, actions are being taken to provide older people greater security and a better quality of life.

In line with the Madrid International Action Plan for Aging, the Government has developed the draft Program on Active and Healthy Ageing for 2023-2027. It aims to unlock the potential of active and healthy ageing, including by ensuring an inclusive labour market for all ages, by developing skills through formal and non-formal educational programmes and strengthening the autonomy of the older people.

Considering the dynamic population changes faced by the Republic of Moldova the availability of quality and timely population data is crucial for policy development and implementation. Last year, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, developed and approved “The Population and Migration Registry” which aims to bring together all administrative data sources by providing reliable and accurate data for tracking the SDGs and ICPD agenda.

Moreover, the Republic of Moldova made progress in terms of the availability of disaggregated data at the sub-national level. The population number at the sub-national level disaggregated by age, sex, and place of residence was revised and released by the National Bureau of Statics, generating the revision of the main demographic indicators, which will serve better budgetary planning.

To improve the data availability, in 2024 the population and housing census will be organized in the Republic of Moldova, integrating innovative approaches and build on lessons learned from the last census in 2014.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate my delegation’s support for the successful conclusion of this CPD session and as the international community is approaching the 30th anniversary of ICPD, the Republic of Moldova is determined to actively participate in the Regional Round on ICPD+30 in October this year acknowledging progress, emerging trends, and highlight priorities for the way forward.

I thank you.