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H. E. Ion JINGA,
**Permanent Representative of Romania to the United
Nations**

**EU Explanation of Position for the 52nd Commission on Population and
Development**

New York, 1st April 2019

Thank you Mr Chair.

The EU refers also to the statement it will deliver during the upcoming general debate.

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this position.

The EU and its Member States extend our warm thanks to the Chair, Bureau members and Secretariat for their successful stewardship of the process that led to the adoption today of the Declaration to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. We welcome the fact that, after the disappointments of recent years, a consensual commemoration of this anniversary - which reaffirms the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation, as well as the outcomes of its reviews - has proven possible. We also welcome the important point that the Declaration makes about the essential role of the ICPD Programme of Action in respect to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We would, however, wish to place on record several important points with respect to our perspectives on the Declaration.

First, there are a range of issues which we would have ideally wished to see reflected in the Declaration – not least relevant human rights references – but which we did not advance during the negotiations in the interest of a short, consensual outcome.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Second, with respect to paragraph 3, we would have wished to see a clearer reference – drawing on more recent sources - to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Declaration's text gives insufficient prominence to this point in the context of its reference to internationally agreed development goals.

Finally, as regards paragraph 4, we would note that we do not interpret this language as imposing any new financial obligations and that this text does not reflect relevant developments since 2014 - most importantly the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which provides the global framework for financing in support of the SDGs.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

