



## Statement

**48<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development  
Agenda item 4: general debate on national experience in population matters:  
realizing the future we want – integrating population issues into sustainable  
development, including in the post-2015 development agenda**

Madam Chair,  
Distinguished delegates,

Let me start by congratulating you, Madame Chair, on your assumption of this very important duty and to wish you and the other members of the Bureau the best of luck in steering this process to a successful outcome.

Romania fully aligns to the statement delivered on behalf of EU and its Members States. Furthermore, I would like to make a few additional remarks in our national capacity, presenting both progresses and challenges at the national level on population and development.

We welcome the theme of the current session of the Commission on Population and Development, “Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the Post 2015 development agenda” which provides a greater level of coherence and consistency with the post – 2015 development agenda track. We would also like to thank to the Bureau, the Population Division UN-DESA and the UNFPA for the meaningful preparatory work carried out in advance of this session.

Romania reiterates its support for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, and its follow-up processes and outcomes. Based on principles of the Cairo Plan of Action, a wide range of policies and programs bear witness to Romania’s commitment to the population and development agenda. The main measures implemented by the Government



are aimed to increase the quality of life of all citizens, ensuring social cohesion, promotion of social inclusion and poverty reduction by assuring, without discrimination, the access of all, women and girls, man and boys to health, education, social protection.

A particular attention was given to increasing the participation of young people and vulnerable groups in the labour market, to aligning the quality and skills of the labour force to market demands and also to enhancing the legislation with the aim to encourage job creation.

Romania has a successful record in addressing the inequalities in universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including the observance of sexual and reproductive health and rights through strengthening health systems both in rural and urban areas, with significant implications for development policy. Progress was recorded in terms of increasing access of persons belonging to remote and isolated communities to quality health care, sexuality education, modernization of public health system. The main objectives of the reform were included in the National Health Strategy 2014-2020, approved on December 2014 and covering the following areas: public health and health care with a focus on improving health of women and children, reduce morbidity and mortality of non-communicable diseases, ensuring equitable access, especially for vulnerable groups.

In order to alleviate poverty, increase the efficiency and effectiveness of social transfers, particularly for children, Romania continues its efforts to implement measures in order to reduce poverty and social exclusion. In 2014, the measures adopted by the Government are aimed to improve the legislation in social assistance and increase the amount of the social benefits for poor families with children. Apart from the programs for social transfers ensuring the financial security of families, concrete steps were also taken towards legislative amendments in social services, leading to an enhancement of the quality of social services.

In the context of promoting an active social dialogue at national level, Romania finalized the National Strategy regarding social inclusion and poverty reduction for 2015-2020, the implementation of this strategic document allowing to Government to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion and to meet the European Union target established for Romania in Europe 2020 Strategy.



Population dynamics is inevitably linked to sustainable development. Continuing population growth, ageing, urbanization and migration constitute, against the background of persisting inequalities, important developmental challenges and opportunities for all three pillars of sustainable development. Population dynamics is a key cross cutting issue with implications for human wellbeing and sustainable development strategies at all levels.

The Romanian Government has developed and implemented a set of reforms, in order to adapt to the changes of an ageing population, for the purpose of ensuring the sustainability of the pension system and maintaining proper health care and long-term care for the elderly. The policies are based on the active aging policy agenda, covering a society where older people are encouraged and helped to lead a healthy, productive, participatory, worthy and independent life (National Strategy for Promotion of Active Ageing and Protection of the Elderly 2015-2020).

On child protection, the National Strategy on the Protection and Promotion of children rights for the next period 2014-2020 was approved. The general objectives are focused on the improvement of children access to quality services, the respect for their rights and the support for the social inclusion of the children in vulnerable situations, as well as the prevention of any forms of violence and the encouragement of children participation in the process of making decisions they involve them directly.

For the persons with disabilities, a new strategy regarding the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities is under development.

Madam Chair,

2015 represents the trigger point for a reinforced commitment and stronger deeds in our common endeavour for gender equality and empowerment of women. It is a commitment towards sustainable development that will be assumed at the highest level, in September 2015, that can't - just cannot - leave behind half of the world's population.

The world has changed since 1995 when the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action was adopted. Many progresses have been made in



empowering women. Maternal mortality percentages are dropping; more girls enrol in schools and complete their education; more women are involved in decisions – especially political ones; more women are working. Still, the progress is slow and uneven. Keeping the same pace is not good enough: it seems we will require further 80 years to reach full equality if we maintain this current pace. We can do better and we must!

In conclusion, Madame Chair, Romania considers the development challenges we face require systematic participation of all stakeholders in crafting responses. We are confident that these responses can be implemented within a framework of partnerships and global leadership through the United Nations.

We consider the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development as an opportunity to advance our efforts to improve the lives of our people, with equity and dignity, and ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

I thank you!