

UKRAINE



УКРАЇНА

STATEMENT

by

the representative of the delegation of Ukraine

at

the Forty-eighth session of the
UN Commission on Population and Development

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.

New York, 14 April 2015

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Dear colleagues,

Ukraine commends the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his report on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda.

At the moment, social development presents a serious challenge for my country. Provoked insurgent activities have breached the territorial integrity of Ukraine and lead to a major humanitarian crisis, which poses a threat to our social stability and sustainable development. Despite exceptionally challenging circumstances, Ukraine is making every effort to protect and promote the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people.

Illegal political and military involvement in the east of the country has resulted in growing numbers of IDPs (currently reaching over 1 million people). Internally displaced persons are a new challenge for Ukraine. At the same time, international organizations UNHCR, UNOCHA and IOM have allocated to Ukraine its significant experience in analysis and response. Therefore we commend those, who are addressing the displacement solutions worldwide and conducting continuous assessment of most immediate population needs at international and national level. It is obvious that United Nations post-2015 development agenda should incorporate IDPs complex social, economic and demographic phenomenon, which hampers sustainable development of any single country or entire geographical region.

Ukraine channels all our available resources to the improvement of local social protection services in insurgent-stricken regions. Under these challenging circumstances, strengthening social protection has never been a more urgent priority for our country, especially in developing national IPDs strategies on integration, relocation, response and recovery.

We are mobilizing all our resources to facilitate socio-economic integration of IDPs. Despite the difficult economic situation, funds have been allocated from the state budget to address this issue. Special attention is paid to the most vulnerable population groups. The Government is actively working with UNDP Ukraine on the realization of the project "Rapid Response to Social and Economic Issues of IDPs." We focus our efforts on creating adequate conditions for free and open access of IDPs to all available social services.

Employment is a key component of IDPs' integration. Over 83 thousand IDPs from the areas of anti-terrorist operations and the annexed territory of Crimea have contacted state employment agencies for assistance. Major efforts are made to facilitate permanent or temporary employment of IDPs. The state provides professional training, information seminars, regularly updated electronic database of available positions all around the country, job search assistance and consultations on employment legislation. Importantly, individuals are not required to present any documents to take advantage of these free services.

Ministries of Social Policy, Health and Economic Development are prepared to join efforts to guarantee psychological assistance to conflict-affected population. The State Emergency Service is working with civil society organizations on providing free group and individual counseling to IDPs in various regions of the country. So far, over 130 thousand IDPs have benefited from the service. Today, Ukraine's primary goal is building human capacity.

Stabilizing the situation and addressing the on-going humanitarian consequences will enable Ukraine to embark on the transition from MDGs to sustainable development goals. We realize that we are to face serious long-term challenges, but we are prepared. Our aspiration for building a new country of peace and stability is supported by our international partners, to whom we are extremely grateful.

I thank you.