S T A T E M E N T

delivered by H.E. Mr. Vlad Lupan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations
at the 49ᵗʰ session of the Commission on Population and Development

New York, 11 April 2016

Madame Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by highlighting the importance of this year's session of the CPD in light of setting the stage for evidence-base policy-making in implementing cross-cutting population issues of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I would also like to commend you, Madame Chairperson, for your leadership and tireless efforts in conducting the deliberations of this session and to thank the Secretary General for his reports presenting to the Commission innovative ways to strengthening the demographic evidence base for International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and 2030 Development Agenda.

Madame Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova is pleased to see that the people-centered 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals has the human rights and empowerment of people at its core. We are aware that the ambitious and transformative demand of the 2030 Agenda advances the aspiration that no one to be left behind. For this exercise to be a successful one, we need a strong innovative statistical requisite allowing us to identify and to locate the vulnerable people in need of development interventions. Meanwhile, we should understand that high claim for disaggregation, aimed at show up inequalities masked by aggregated reporting on the MDGs and, the use of population geo-referenced data for planning, evaluation and monitoring of progress remain a serious challenge, given the long-standing weaknesses of national data ecosystems.

And this is exactly what my country strives to do – to improve its national population data system. It is in this context that the Center for Demographic Research (CDR) has been established in October 2013 within the National Institute for Economic Research of the Science Academy of the Republic of Moldova, aiming at strengthening institutional capacities in the demographic research area and providing analytical and scientific assistance for state institutions in the process of drafting and monitoring policies in demographic field based on scientific evidence. Concurrently, this is a good example of efficient dialogue between state institutions and academia, in terms of data-policy interface. Within CDR the Active Ageing Index (AAI) has been set up with the support of UNFPA, based on European experience. Moldova is among first non-EU country from Eastern Europe who did so. The results of the index will be used by decision makers in developing evidence-based policies for active participation of elderly in social and economic life.

We hope that outcomes of this analytical Center, jointly with the assistance of donors and UN system in the Republic of Moldova, will help us assess the degree of fulfillment of the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategic Programme in the field of demographic security for

2014-2016, since we are approaching the final stage of this programmatic framework implementation.

In terms of well known population data source, my delegation would like to mention with deep gratitude to the Country Office of United Nations Population Fund in Moldova (UNFPA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Romanian Government and other development partners for their valuable financial and technical support, the finalization of the Population and Housing Census held in the Republic of Moldova in May 2014. This exercise was a unique one, since this was the first ever Housing Census held in my country from its independence. The National Bureau of Statistics applied new tools in conducting this exercise such as Post-Enumeration Survey. This activity will expose a clear picture of the demographic profile of the country and will help us project tailored policies for population development for a longer term.

Madame Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova is a country which is passing through substantial population changes marked by ageing, relatively low fertility and low birth rate, as compared to other countries, as well as migration. The preliminary results of the aforementioned census showed a population decrease of almost 25% in the last 10 years. This change impacts all aspects of life and economic planning in the country. It is in this context that we try to best capitalize on the existing demographic dividend of the targeted population categories, having in mind the relevance of population age structure, to furthering the directions of ICPD, as it was stated in the Secretary General's report presented for today's session.

We believe that data integration for demographic dividend could direct us to take advantage of demographic potential of young population, to whom the Republic of Moldova attaches utmost importance, bearing in mind that almost 26% of population are young people. In this respect, my Government is carrying out the evidence-based youth mainstreaming process in the national policies. Correspondingly, my Government addresses properly ageing people in its Action Plan for implementing the Roadmap on mainstreaming ageing in policies, developed along with UNFPA and other UN agencies in Moldova, with the aim of putting in place the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Quality data will be critical for identifying the gaps and challenges in the process of evaluating this document. In addition to that, the evaluation of National Strategy on Reproductive Health for 2005-2015 has been recently carried out.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Population Situation Analysis (PSA) and its cost-benefits that we intend to launch in September 2016, with the support of UNFPA so that to make sure policies respond targeted and efficiently to development needs.

Despite the progress mentioned, my country needs to strengthen the link between demographic research and policy making need and we very much count on the international community's support on this matter.

In conclusion, Madame Chairperson, I would like to stress that there is no doubt that availability of reliable and timely demographic data is essential to achieve the SDGs and to monitor progress toward their achievement. To reach those goals, we have to raise the political priority of establishing national statistical systems to monitor implementation of the ICPD and the SDGs and to develop strategies for data collection, in partnership with regional and global initiatives for data-sharing and innovation. These endeavors should be embedded within efforts to improve the use of such data by Governments and civil society to advance human rights and equality.

I thank you!