

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

INTERVENTION OF
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Agenda item 4
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Romania Statement

49th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development

Agenda item 4: general debate on national experience in population matters:

“Strengthening the demographic evidence base

for the post-2015 development agenda”

Madam Chair, Your Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I would like to start by congratulating you, Madam Chair, on your assumption of this very important duty and wish you and the other members of the Bureau every success.
Romania welcomes the theme of the current session of the Commission on Population and Development, **“Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda”** and would like to thank the Bureau, as well as the UN Population Division and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the preparatory work carried out in advance of this session.

Over the past 20 years, many parts of the world have undergone remarkable demographic, socio-economic, environmental and political change. Many countries have made substantial progress in expanding access to reproductive health care, in increasing birth rates and lowering death rates, in raising education and income levels, as well as the educational and economic status of women.

While the advances of the past two decades provide a basis for optimism about successful implementation of the present Programme of Action, much remains to be accomplished.

Romania reiterates its commitment and 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 the principles of the



Cairo Plan of Action, a wide range of policies and programs have been developed in our country.

The objective of the Romanian Government is that all its citizens are provided with an equal opportunity to participate in society, to feel valued and appreciated, to live in dignity and that their basic needs are met and their differences respected.

Firstly, measures implemented by the Romanian Government are aimed to increase the quality of life for all its citizens. A particular attention was given to increase the participation to the labour market of young people and vulnerable groups, to improve the quality of the labour force according to the market demands and also to improve the legislation, with the aim to encourage job creation.

Secondly, Romania believes that promoting social inclusion is not only “the right thing to do”, but also an economic necessity. Migration, aging and low fertility are progressively translating into a shrinking working-age population, which is expected to drop by 30% by 2050. This major demographic change will strain economic growth and tax collection, while increasing the demand for pensions, health and elderly-care spending. To mitigate these structural risks, we need to increase the overall employment rate and productivity, by reducing inactivity and by increasing the skills and education of the workforce. The measures included in our recently-adopted **National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction for the period 2015-2020** will help bring a larger share of the poor and vulnerable into the economic sphere and increase the economic output.

Thirdly, it is planned to make more efficient the national system of social assistance by increasing the efficacy of means tested benefits and rationalization of the state budget spending. In this context, a new programme for the minimum inclusion income (MI), aiming at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of social transfers, will be implemented starting with 2018.

Madam Chair,

The development of social services has been the strategic goal of the Romanian Government since 2006 and will continue to be one until 2020. The new approach to be



fostered in the coming years needs to be family-and person-oriented, sustainable and based on a holistic vision of development.

In terms of health, *Romania continued on the path of reform of the national health system*. Progress was made in increasing the access to quality health care for persons from remote and isolated communities, promoting e-health programs and modernizing health system at regional level.

Romania believes that dialogue between all stakeholders is a prerequisite for better addressing the national social protection needs, promoting prevention or early and targeted intervention and support. **Partnerships at international level are also needed**, as well as exchanges of experiences, the search for common solutions to common problems and promoting social innovation.

Madam Chair,

The Romanian Government has implemented a set of reforms in order to adapt to the challenge of an ageing population, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of the pension system and to preserving proper health-care and long-term care for the elderly. In this context, **Romania adopted the National Strategy for the Promotion of Active Ageing and the Protection of the Elderly for the period 2015 - 2020**.

The government needs now to develop a national social inclusion monitoring and evaluation system and to establish specific indicators for poverty and social inclusion to track progress towards its goals in the field. Developing such a system would also increase accountability and efficiency in the allocation of public resources and thus more effectively meet the real needs of the poor and vulnerable groups. In this context, the government will continue to invest in strengthening its monitoring and evaluation capacity by improving the mechanism for collecting both administrative and survey data on a regular basis and building capacity at different levels (central, county and local) to analyse quantitative and qualitative data in the areas of poverty and social exclusion.

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While significant progress has been made in Romania, there remains, however, important work to be done. In this context, we are firmly committed to support the achievement of the ICPD, the Beijing Platform and achieving the SDGs.

Romania believes that the development challenges we face require systematic participation of all stakeholders in identifying responses. We are confident that these responses can be implemented within a framework of partnerships and global leadership, such as that provided by the United Nations.

We consider the 49th session of the Commission on Population and Development as an opportunity to advance our efforts in strengthening the demographic evidence base so that to improve the lives of our people, with equity and dignity, and ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Thank you!