



Statement by H.E. Mr. Vlad Lupan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations, at the fiftieth session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, on agenda item 3 (a): Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at global, regional and national levels

Madame Chair,

Changing age population structures is one of the major factors that impact development and frame the actions for the implementation of the ICPD. The demographic transition in the Republic of Moldova is characterized by an intense process of population ageing and low fertility. While this is not a new phenomenon in Europe, in the case of the Republic of Moldova it is amplified by migration, which makes it even more challenging to effectively manage this transition and seize the potential demographic dividend.

The process of ageing is associated with a series of profound transformations in all spheres of life: economic, social and even political. When addressing ageing, first of all it has to be highlighted that in contemporary societies the social infrastructures has been set up based on the conditions of a younger population. That is why the growing older population requires a drastic shift in the way social infrastructure is build. This of course entails major implications in several areas.

From the economic point of view, population ageing along migration has a great impact on taxation and, subsequently, on the accumulation of national budget, the distribution of social investments and consumption. In the social area, ageing entails several changes in the broad-spectrum of population needs. For example, low fertility and a slim segment of younger population results in the closing of a significant number of schools due to lesser pupils and students, which, in its turn, leads to the reduction of jobs in the education sector. On another hand, the demand to supplement the medical and other institutions of social care increases. These need to be paid by taxes collected from the shrinking younger population. Ageing is also accompanied by the change in the family patterns, the lifestyle of the population and reproductive behavior. Fewer children and migration involve altered inter-generational relations, family alienation, while elderly remain alone and the care for them should be taken on by the state.

From the political point of view, population ageing has also an impact on the outcome of elections and representation of parties. Therefore, age structure and, in our particular case, ageing in itself is not only a demographic phenomenon, it rather involves a profound metamorphosis of the country. To economically and socially adjust to this ageing prone transition, an important reform has been made in the pension system by unifying the retirement age for men and women at 63 years old, a measure that is expected to contribute to the stabilization of the pensions system by making it more equitable and financially sustainable. It is also expected that it will contribute to poverty reduction and the old age protection. We are already witnessing that the proportion of economically active elderly is increasing, especially in rural areas where the demographic situation has been particularly volatile. Hence, the cumulative

effect of the pension reform and the prolonged economic activity of the population will likely facilitate to overcome and stabilize this intense demographic transition process.

Not less important, in the case of the Republic of Moldova, is the fact that ageing is a women-specific process since, currently women represent more than 60% in the structure of the population aged 60 and over and generally women's share in the overall number of the population is larger than the proportion of men. From this perspective, designing policies, services and laws emphasizing gender is a key factor for our population development agenda.

While taking forward the ICPD and ensuring the implementation of SDGs, the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights and ensuring inclusive development shall be placed at the core of our agenda. The Republic of Moldova has taken a number of measures in this direction since the last session of CPD.

Just recently, on 9 March 2017, the Government adopted a new Strategy for Gender Equality for 2017-2021 containing provisions for gender sensitive budgeting and setting up gender sensitive benchmarks in the area of agriculture, health, education and the labor market. At the local level, a new nation-wide service for the social and professional inclusion of young people has been developed which enables the improvement of life conditions of disadvantaged youth, particularly in small towns and rural areas.

Also, last year the Government approved the national strategy for the labor force for 2017-2021. The strategy aims at balancing the labor market through the creation of new and better jobs and through enhancing the competitiveness and employability of the labor force. The strategy is also expected to contribute to the fulfillment of the commitments as a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights, The Reviewed European Social Carta, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the IOM conventions.

Finally, in cooperation with the development partners, including the EU, the World Bank and the UN, the capacities to collect and disseminate socio-economic data are being strengthened, by harmonizing national statistics mechanisms with international standards and by integrating gender equality and human rights based approach in statistics. This enables the usage of reliable statistical data in policy planning and better targeting of concerned population groups in our development strategies.

Madame Chair,

These are only a few examples of initiatives that are in line with our country's commitments in the framework of the ICPD and the 2030 agenda. We cannot stress enough that at the foundation of all these measures stays our pledge for human rights, social inclusion and equity and we strongly believe that these same principles shall be the cornerstone of this session's outcome.

I thank you.