

**COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION**

Informal briefing on substantive issues
27 October 2022, 1.15 - 2:30 p.m. (EDT)
Conference Room 6

**Opening remarks by H.E. Gheorghe Leucă, (Republic of Moldova)
Chair, fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure as well to welcome you to this informal briefing on substantive issues related to the 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Let me thank the Population Division of UN DESA for organizing this event.

As John noted, my name is Gheorghe Leucă. I am the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations and Chair of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development.

John has already provided you with various organizational details. Let me add just a few thoughts.

As you may be aware, in recent years, successive Bureaux, with the support of the Secretariat, have made efforts to revitalize the work of the Commission.

One piece of feedback received from Member States included a suggestion to spread preparatory events more evenly throughout the year. Accordingly, this briefing is being held well ahead of the start of the Commission's annual session. We hope that this new initiative will assist delegations, the Secretariat, UNFPA and other partners in preparing for the upcoming session.

Dear colleagues,

The annual session of the Commission on Population and Development will be held only five months before the second "SDG Summit" - the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly – which will be convened in September 2023 during the General Assembly high-level week in New York. The Summit will mark the mid-point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is my hope that our Commission will make an important contribution to the preparations for this event.

Today, I am strictly in a listening mode.

I look forward to today's presentations and subsequent interventions from floor. I am sure that today's event will help to guide the Commission's work as we move forward.

Thank you.