



**H.E. GEORGHE LEUCĂ, 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 (CPD)**

**REMARKS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE 56TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Kanem,
Assistant-Secretary-General Spatolisano,

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Twenty-nine years ago, following the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo, Member States requested this Commission to support and review the implementation of the full range of activities outlined in its Programme of Action.

For the first time in 20 years, this Commission has assessed the linkages between population, education and sustainable development this week.

This assessment comes at a critical time when the world faces an education crisis, which was highlighted during the Transforming Education Summit last year.

The debates during this week reflected the wide array of challenges the world faces in providing inclusive and equitable quality education and in promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. We have also heard practical solutions to address the crisis.

Our session has produced high-quality, evidence-based assessments and policy recommendations for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda.

Our panelists have provided us with much needed information and with thought provoking ideas.

The significant participation of NGOs and the large number of side events have much contributed to making this session informative and worthwhile.

Even though we were unable to come together on the resolution, I hope that this session has provided you with food for thought and with inspiration for the work that lies ahead of us.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who worked tirelessly to prepare and organize our annual session:

- To my fellow Bureau members: Thank you for your role in organizing an interesting, innovative and thought-provoking session and for your friendship throughout this process, for ably chairing plenary meetings, for moderating expert panels as well as for performing a myriad of other duties with professionalism and dedication.
- To Sylvia and Imanuel, thank you for your immense efforts in facilitating the draft resolution.
- To Sarah for successfully negotiating the three draft proposals.
- To Monei for his work as rapporteur.
- To our panelists and moderators: Thank you for enriching our deliberations.
- To all Member State delegations: Thank you for your substantive contributions to the discussions in the general debate and the interactive panels and for your active engagement throughout the negotiations.
- To our colleagues from the UN system: Thank you for sharing your expertise on the topics we have been discussing.
- To civil society: Thank you for your contributions and insights, and for holding Member States accountable for the commitments we make in New York.
- To the organizers of side-events: Thank you for informing our deliberations
- To my staff at the mission without whom I wouldn't have been able to take on the role of Chair
- And finally, to our colleagues from DESA, DGACM and UNFPA: Thank you for your skillful and steadfast support to the Chair and the Bureau in organizing and managing the annual session, including the informal consultations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased that we were able to hold this session in person once again. A special thanks to those who traveled from afar, and I wish you all safe travels back home.

Thank you.