

Statement

**by Mr. Alexei Buzu, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the
Republic of Moldova**

**at the general debates of the Commission on Population and Development,
fifty-seventh session**

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Honourable Ministers,

Excellences, distinguished delegates,

It is with great privilege and gratitude that I stand before you today on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to share our journey and commitment towards achieving fairer and more inclusive social protection, reconciliation of work – life balance and family life, gender equality, and mainstreaming ageing as part of our demographic resilience strategy, firmly grounded on data and human rights principles.

In the last decades, the Republic of Moldova has made significant progress in advancing the rights and well-being of our citizens, particularly in areas crucial to sustainable development and societal progress. Through concerted efforts and unwavering partnerships with organizations such as UNFPA, ILO, UN Women, and other development partners, we have promoted a transformative agenda aimed at fostering social prosperity.

Central to our policy has been the commitment to empower families, especially women, to make choices that enhance their quality of life while contributing to the economic and social fabric of our nation. Our comprehensive policies, underpinned by evidence-based data derived from the largest Gender and Generations Survey conducted in our country, have laid a sturdy foundation for promoting gender equality and addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by families. On April 8, the National Housing and Population Census started in the Republic of Moldova and will last till July. The collected data will help us design more targeted policies aimed at addressing structural problems.

One of the critical challenges we have identified is the significant number of women who remain inactive in the workforce due to family obligations. To address this issue, we have embarked on a multifaceted approach, including the development of a comprehensive program aimed at expanding choices for

families with children, facilitating a conducive environment for balancing work and family life, and promoting parental engagement.

By 2030, we target/aim to establish 4,500 alternative individual care services for children and 900 alternative family-type childcare services, thereby enabling parents, particularly mothers, to pursue their professional aspirations without compromising their caregiving responsibilities. Moreover, our legislative reforms have ushered in a new era of flexibility for working parents, with provisions encouraging fathers to actively participate in childcare through paternity leave and other supportive measures.

Furthermore, recognizing the pivotal role of the private sector in fostering a family-friendly environment, we have enacted legislation that empowers employers to create daycare facilities, mini-creches, and breastfeeding rooms. These initiatives not only promote gender equality but also contribute to enhanced productivity and employee well-being.

In our unwavering commitment to eliminating inequities and promoting gender equality as a fundamental right, the Government of Moldova has approved a National Program for promoting and ensuring equality between women and men for the years 2023-2027. This program underscores our steadfast resolve to create an inclusive society where every individual can thrive regardless of gender.

Moreover, recognizing the evolving needs of our ageing population, Moldova has taken proactive steps towards mainstreaming ageing into intersectoral policies and government services. Our National Program to promote active and healthy ageing for the years 2023-2027, developed in collaboration with UNFPA, exemplifies our commitment to ensuring the well-being and dignity of our senior citizens.

Through innovative initiatives such as the “University for the 3rd Age” and the development of a National Digital Platform, we aim to enhance the accessibility of educational opportunities and digital resources for elderly citizens.

Unfortunately, this CPD session is taking place at a time when the number of wars, conflicts, disputes and other hot spots is continuously growing. The impact of Russia’s ruthless war of aggression against Ukraine is also felt in Moldova. My country has been showing its solidarity with Ukraine from day one, sheltering thousands of refugees – mostly women and children, providing humanitarian aid, helping with the transit of people and goods. With the support of our partners, we continue to host more than 118 000 Ukrainians seeking refuge. A year ago, we launched the temporary protection mechanism which covers today over 44.000

Ukrainians, providing access to various services and paving the way towards social inclusion.

Ahead of the Summit of the Future, the CPD57 and ICPD30 commemorative event provide a critical opportunity to mobilise action to support our common goals, notably on people-centred development, human rights, gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights, as a means to ensure that no woman, girl, young person, or other vulnerable group is left behind on the road to sustainable development in this Decade of Action.

The Republic of Moldova remains firmly committed to realize the ICPD Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action, these documents serving as guidelines to address the demographic and socio-economic challenges and build demographically resilient and prosperous societies. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, the Republic of Moldova remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering a society where every individual, regardless of age, gender, or background, can realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to our collective prosperity.

In conclusion, I extend our sincere gratitude to the UN Commission on Population and Development for providing this platform to share our experiences and aspirations. Let us continue our collective journey towards building a world where no one is left behind and every person can thrive in dignity and equality.

Thank you.