

**Statement by Chargée d’Affaires Khrystyna Hayovyshyn  
at the general discussion of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the Commission on Population and Development  
9 April 2025**

**Chair, distinguished delegates,**

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU as well as Cross-regional Joint Statement and would like to add few points in its national capacity.

For every nation, health and well-being are fundamental pillars of human capital and essential to achieving sustainable development. For countries facing conflict, like Ukraine, they are also matters of national security and survival.

Russia’s full-scale invasion has triggered a devastating health crisis in Ukraine. Essential health services and supply chains have been severely disrupted.

Since February 2022, nearly 2,200 healthcare facilities have been damaged, including the deliberate targeting of Okhmatdyt Children’s Hospital in July 2024. Around 300 medical facilities have been completely destroyed. These deliberate Russian attacks on medical infrastructure constitute grave violations of international humanitarian law.

Our health system is stretched to the limit, particularly in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable—pregnant women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Fear has become an everyday reality: fear of giving birth in bomb shelters, of seeking medical care under shelling, of raising children under constant threat of missile and drones’ attacks.

The demographic toll is stark. Ukraine’s birth rate has dropped to a historic low of 0.9 with more than half of all births now occurring prematurely.

More than 10 million Ukrainians—primarily women and children—have fled abroad, while an additional 5 million remain displaced within the country.

The trauma of war has left 74% of the population experiencing psychological distress, with children bearing the most severe mental health

impacts. Thousands, including children, have lost limbs and now require prosthetics and long-term rehabilitation.

In this context, access to healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health care, is more critical than ever.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of WHO and UNFPA, particularly its work on maternity care and mobile psychological teams, which has been vital in alleviating the suffering. We call on the donor community to ensure full and sustained funding for WHO and UNFPA's programs in Ukraine.

**Chair, distinguished delegates,**

Despite the devastation inflicted by Russian aggression, Ukraine has demonstrated extraordinary resilience and remains firmly committed to rebuilding and renewal.

In partnership with UNFPA, we have developed a draft *Demographic Development Strategy through 2040*, reaffirming every individual's right to make free and informed decisions about their lives. It aims to create an environment where people feel safe, supported, and empowered to plan their futures in Ukraine—through secure housing, inclusive labor markets, and stronger social cohesion.

Under the leadership of Ukraine's First Lady, Olena Zelenska, we are implementing the comprehensive nationwide "*How Are You?*" Mental Health Program to foster resilience, well-being, and accessible support for all.

However, let us be clear: no strategy can fully succeed while the war continues.

We believe that once a just and lasting peace—based on the UN Charter and international law—is achieved and stability is restored, Ukraine will become a key contributor globally, sharing its expertise and best practices, particularly in healthcare, to strengthen global resilience and sustainable development.

We therefore reiterate our call on the international community to intensify pressure on the Russian Federation to end its unjustified war of aggression. Russia must be held accountable—not only for the physical destruction it has caused, but also for the long-term harm to the health, dignity, and future of the Ukrainian people.

Even amid war, Ukraine remains unwavering in its commitment to human rights, including the right of every individual, especially women and girls, to make free and informed decisions about their lives.

Thank you.