



**Statement by Mr. Gheorghe Leucă, Deputy Director general for multilateral cooperation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, at the 46th
session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development
New York, 22 April 2013**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by highlighting the importance of this year's CPD session in light of the preparations towards the High Level Dialogue on International Migration for Development to be held in October after the general debate of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as well as the special session during the 69th session of the UN General Assembly aimed to assess the status of implementation and set a forward-looking agenda for the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

There is no doubt that migration and the population dynamics have a significant impact on global development in all its aspects - economic, social and cultural. The capacity of Governments to manage and regulate migration and demographic processes determines the level in which they add up to development. As migration is a process which links countries and borders making them more transparent, international cooperation must prevail with the aim to ensure that the rights of people for free movement are respected. Unquestionably, the effect of this cooperation shall envisage the balance between the right to free movement and the rights of sovereign states to control their borders. This is the main dichotomy that we all acknowledge when addressing the issue of the human rights of migrants, granting social security and equal opportunities for all, regardless of their status or condition. Nevertheless, this dichotomy can be solved through extensive partnerships and agreements.

In this connection, I would like refer to the experience of my country with several positive aspects of migration which evolved during the last few years. First, from the economic point of view, according to the World Bank assessments, migration exerted a significant positive impact on macroeconomic stability of the Republic of Moldova. This has been possible due to remittances flows which compensate the trade deficit of the country, consolidate the fiscal sector and supplement the national currency. Moreover, remittances which are accounted as foreign currency transfers support domestic consumption and contribute indirectly to the national GDP by an average of 27% through the Value Added Tax which is poured into the state budget. Due to the consistent efforts of the Government, a remittances investment programme has been developed and in 2010 it attracted some 2.4 mil Euros into Small and Medium Enterprise Sector. As a result, more people particularly from the rural areas are kept away from the risk of falling into poverty.

At the same time, from the demographic and social perspective the picture is less encouraging as we are facing several challenges with regards to low fertility rate, aging of the population, children left without parental care and shortages in labor force. As it has been rightly stated in the Secretary General's report to this session on new trends in migration, demographic aspects, women and young people are those who experience migration at a greater extent leaving behind significant gaps in the area of social security, education, child care and other crucial fields. Another important aspect is the internal migration from rural to urban areas which requires essential restructuring in the planning of sustainable development of rural and urban communities, bearing in mind that although cities offer more opportunities for improved access to social services, information, jobs, higher education and are more efficient for energy saving, the empowerment of rural communities for the capitalization of land and of natural and agricultural potential of the country as one of the main drivers of the economy is vital for the overall sustainability and progress. Along with all these issues there are some other which are high on my Government's agenda.

In its capacity of the Chairman of the Commission on Population and Development the Republic of Moldova had the pleasure of hosting the meeting of the CPD Bureau members in Chisinau in

January and on the margin of that event holding an international seminar whose topic was the same as of this session's, "New trends in migration demographic aspects" in cooperation with the UNFPA Office in Moldova

As was presented during both events, the Republic of Moldova has been taking measures to address the consequences of migration, as well as those related to population dynamics. The consequences of a rapidly ageing population are significant in Moldova, with one third of the population expected to be over 60 by 2050. Both in Moldova and globally there is a need to understand the evidence and plan for the present and the future. We believe that such issues should be fully addressed in the ICPD Beyond 2014 review process and in the post 2015 development agenda.

Addressing demographic challenges at the domestic level requires an integrative and comprehensive approach, based on key human-rights principles and ensuring a gender-sensitive approach. Facilitating external circular migration and establishing mutual agreements on social protection with countries from the region, especially those of destination is the key tool to restore the demographic balance and spur investments in small and medium businesses as compared to the current situation in which most of the transfers and remittances go into domestic consumption and acquisition of real estate. The realities show that the corridors of movements of persons under free visa regimes are circular and people tend to go abroad only for short periods of time, they do not leave their roots and at a certain point decide to return and reintegrate as agents of development in their communities.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to emphasize the positive example of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership implementation which significantly impacted the institutional capacity to formulate and implement policies in the field of migration at the governmental level. At the end of the last year, the first evaluation of the Mobility Partnership has been completed which provides us a tool for a global approach to migration and mobility. The results of the evaluation underscore the positive achievements of strengthened cooperation, matched priorities, policy and legislative initiatives, extensive access to information on migration flows which all together represent an important step towards our goal to make the most of our human capital abroad and inside the country.

Another achievement is the elaboration of the Extended Migration Profile for the Republic of Moldova which has been issued a few months ago with the support of the European Union and the International Organization for Migration. Apart from being a reliable, comprehensive and accurate source of information on current trends in migration in the Republic of Moldova, the implementation of the EMP conclusions and recommendations is one of the deliverables under the EU-Moldova visa liberalization dialogue and a tool to enhance the Government's capacity to use migration data for policy development.

On the issue of data gathering, analysis and evidence-based policy making in the field of migration, I would like to mention that in 2014 the Republic of Moldova is planning to hold the national census with the UNFPA support. This exercise aims to expose a clear picture of the demographic profile of the country and will help us project tailored policies for population development for a longer term. In addition, along with UNFPA and other UN agencies, Moldova has developed a Roadmap on Ageing and has established a National Commission on Population and Development to guide policy development and implementation in these areas.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, it is clear to us that migration is an issue which touches upon all countries and it is a major factor for population change, all the time more diverse and complex. As a country whose economic and social profile is significantly impacted by those changes, we are looking forward to their clear and result-oriented articulation in the UN post-2015 agenda. We equally expect that at the end of this session the Commission will be able to formulate those priorities in a way that would facilitate our cooperative agreement on the way forward.

I thank you for your attention.