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PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development
1-5 Aprilie 2019**

Agenda Item 3

STATEMENT

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New York, 2nd April 2019

Romania Statement

52th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development

Special Theme: Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Your Excellences, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to mention that Romania aligns to the EU Statement and I would like to start, in my national capacity, by congratulating you, Mister Chair, on your assumption of this very important duty and also, I would like to wish you and the members of the Bureau a lot of success in the process.

Romania welcomes the special theme of the current session of the Commission on Population and Development and would like to thank the Bureau, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the preparatory work carried out in advance of this session.

The ICPD Programme of Action that was adopted in 1994 marked the consensus of 179 world governments for which the human dignity and the respect for human rights represent the preconditions for sustainable development. Since then, the humanity had made huge progress regarding advancing human rights, especially the rights of women, reducing poverty, increasing life expectancy, improving health, decreasing child and maternal mortality or greater access to education.

In 2018 our state adopted the **Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030** that defines the national framework for implementing the SDGs being a citizen-centered strategy.

Based on the principles of the ICPD Programme of Action and looking forward to the implementation of the SDGs, a wide range of policies, strategies and programs reflects Romania's commitment to the population and development agenda.

The main measures implemented by the Romania's Government aim to increase the quality of life of all citizens, ensure social cohesion and promote social inclusion and poverty reduction by assuring without discrimination the access of all, women and girls, man and boys, young or old to health, decent labour market conditions, housing, education, social protection including social services and social benefits.

One of the main challenges that Romania is facing is the process of **demographic ageing**. To address this threat and to improve the life of elderly people, the Romanian Government adopted the **National Strategy for Promotion of Active Ageing and Protection of the Elderly** comprising the following components: healthier and longer life, extended active life, promoting active social and political participation for the elderly, decreasing the dependency of elderly persons and improving the long-term care services for elderly people.

Also, Romania adopted the **National Strategy regarding Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction including** key intervention in the field of employment, health, education, social transfers and social services, housing, social participation, area-based policies and capacity building, allowing the Government to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

In the field of child protection, it was approved the **National Strategy on the protection and promotion of children rights**, focusing on the improvement of children access to quality services, the respect for their rights and the support for the social inclusion of the children in vulnerable situations.

Regarding the promotion of **gender equality and empowerment of women**, Romania has made significant progress. The signing of the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence** (Istanbul Convention) marked the beginning of an important legislative reform process through which the legislative acts in the field of preventing and combating women violence were harmonized with its provisions.

In order to empower persons with disabilities and leave no one behind, Romania adopted the national strategy "**A society without barriers for people with disabilities**". Its fundamental aim is the implementation of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** ratified by Romania in 2010. Romania is committed to mobilize the necessary resources so that no person with disabilities is discriminated, excluded, marginalized or abused.

Even though meeting the development goals assumed through this Programme and through the 2030 Agenda and in particular the goals related to population is mainly the responsibility of the governments, **partnerships at international level** are also very important, taking into account that we live in a world confronted with global challenges that could be solved only by cooperation between actors at a wider level.

In this context, we reiterate our firm commitment to support the achievement of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs. In the same time, the Political Declaration reaffirms our collective commitment.

Mister Chair,

To conclude, Romania considers the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development as an opportunity to advance our efforts on improving the lives of our people and ensure sustainable development, by placing people at the heart of development.

Thank you once again for your attention!

