



Statement by H.E. Mrs. Natalia Gherman, Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the International Conference on Population and Development
22 September 2014, New York

Mr. President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I have a great honour to address you at this special session of the General Assembly dedicated to the follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. Today's gathering gives us yet another opportunity to reaffirm our commitments towards mainstreaming population issues in the framework of the new sustainable development goals and the UN development agenda.

Twenty years passed since the ICPD Programme of Action has been adopted. During this time, world-wide demographic and population trends have changed in many ways. While we pursue further the implementation of this important document, emphasis should be placed on priorities emerging from demographic developments in each country and region.

The unfinished business of the MDGs, the Cairo Programme of Action, and the Beijing Platform of Action is the groundwork of an international forward looking agenda on population and development.

The implementation of the ICPD objectives in Moldova in conjunction with our European integration agenda has brought many positive results over the last years: the quality of life has improved, opportunities for individuals have expanded, and the role of women in the social and political life of the country has grown. Mainstreaming the ICPD principles and the MDGs in our national laws and regulations contributed significantly to these achievements.

We recognize at the heart of our development policies the interconnection and interplay between economic and demographic factors. Our larger purpose is to shift the population-development paradigm from quantity to the quality, with more targeted investments in human capital for a healthy and skilled population, to generate economic prosperity and demographic stability, with the protection of human rights as our guiding principle.

Investing in youth, women's empowerment, promoting active ageing, improving reproductive health are some of our immediate priorities. We will continue to work in this direction with our development partners, including the UNFPA as the leading UN agency in population matters.

Today, following the start of the provisional application of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, including DCFTA as its integral part, the visa free travel with the EU, Moldova is advancing further. Open borders will not only spur economic growth but will also increase the welfare and human development.

Since 2008 Moldova is implementing a Mobility Partnership with the EU. More than 160 projects on migration and development are already implemented. Today we share our experience and best practices with other countries in the EU's Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood. We also are actively engaged in the work of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD). We got inspired by the latest EU proposal expressed within the last GFMD meeting to "consider setting a global agenda for economic mobility" in order to promote transparent international labour movement and address unnecessary bureaucratic barriers the migrants face.

Last but not least: our past experiences in designing and delivering on population-related goals show time and again that good data collection is key for effective population planning and policy. A national strategic programme for demographic security for 2011-2025 is currently implemented in Moldova. We aim at capitalizing on the existing human potential, invest in human capital, and facilitate the participation of all social groups in developing processes.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Moldova reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the international community's effort to advance the scope and the goals of the ICPD.

I thank you.