



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

by H.E. Victor Moraru

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova

at the first regular session of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS

- UNFPA Segment -

Interactive Dialogue with the Executive Director of UNFPA

(New York, 23 January 2019)

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Executive Director, Ms. Natalia Kanem, for her briefing today and for her active engagement with the Board regarding UNFPA's efforts in light of the reform of the UN Development system as well as UNFPA's leadership in promoting sexual and reproductive health.

We recognize this year's significance for UNFPA marking the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 50th anniversary of UNFPA.

This is a good opportunity to take stock of the agency's contribution to global population related goals, lessons learnt throughout the years and ways in which UNFPA could best respond to challenges facing countries around the world.

UNFPA has its share in carrying out the UNDS reform which in many ways represents both a challenge and an opportunity for an internal organizational renewal as for spearheading joint partnerships across the UN system and beyond to deliver on global population priorities.

In this regard, we are pleased to note the recent commitment of a number of agencies, including UNFPA and the UN Secretariat to adopt a mutual recognition of policies and processes that will enable a strengthened operational collaboration, reduce transaction costs between them and hence boost efficiency gains.

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the development of a revised evaluation policy of UNFPA which is in line with the agency's efforts to strengthen its organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

Similarly, the findings and recommendations of the first broad thematic evaluation of UNFPA support to the prevention, response to and elimination of gender-based violence and harmful practices provides an opportunity to reflect on our work in this area and to make the appropriate improvements.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Moldova supports UNFPA's efforts to respond to increased global demands for services and assistance in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

The protection and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights is crucial for sustainable development.

We attach particular importance to the principle of national ownership and alignment to national population development priorities, taking into account demographic trends and their social impact.

Since UNFPA's first country programme in the Republic of Moldova in 2007, UNFPA has been a dependable partner to the Government in identifying solutions and formulating policies to respond to rapidly changing demographic realities.

Facing one of the sharpest population declines in the world, the Republic of Moldova seeks to enhance further its partnerships, both in bilateral and multilateral formats, with the view to apply the best expertise and learn from contexts that have transitioned through similar challenges in the past.

In this regard, we encourage UNFPA to continue to design its assistance portfolio in line with the existing context and demands in the Republic of Moldova.

The Government welcomes particularly some of the most recent activities and efforts to contribute to addressing the root causes of declining fertility rates, strengthening national capacities to prevent cervical cancer and identifying barriers and providing counseling and services to families to have a desired number of children.

We also welcome the launching of the *Generations and Gender Programme* in the Republic of Moldova aiming at studying the changes in the family structure, inter-generational relationships, family and reproductive behavior, and factors impacting the fertility rate.

No less important is the partnership with UNFPA in the area of population data collection.

In view of the preparations for the 2020 world round of censuses, the Government of the Republic of Moldova is willing to work closely with UNFPA to conduct a Household and Population Census followed by the General Agricultural Census. The results of this census will serve as a basis for policy planning and implementation, including in view of the SDGs implementation.

In concluding, Mr. President, I would like to emphasize once again that undoubtedly UNFPA is a leading champion when it comes to promoting sexual and reproductive health in a way that encompasses a multitude of aspects – human rights, development and humanitarian.

The ability of UNFPA to relate global goals to national demands and to maintain a continuing and transparent dialogue with governments regarding population challenges and implement tailored solutions is essential to achieve transformative results.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova is open to continue its collaboration with UNFPA in advancing joint objectives.

I thank you.