



Check against delivery

Statement delivered by the delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations, on the agenda item 22c “International migration and development” in the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly, 27 October 2010, New York

Mme Chairperson,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the EU earlier this morning.

The delegation of the Republic of Moldova welcomes the Secretary General’s Report on International Migration and Development issued in document A/65/203. The findings of this report show clearly that the issue of migration in a globalized and inter-connected world is universal and implies countries of origin, transit and destination at an equal degree.

The migration component represents an essential element for the national development policies of the Republic of Moldova as one of the most affected countries with respect to migration in the region. Nonetheless, the mobility of people is a relatively new phenomenon for the country which has a crucial impact on its economic and social development and encompasses some positive, as well as negative aspects.

On one hand, the circular mobility of the people is meant to produce a wide dissemination of knowledge and proactive approaches to innovation and development, by assimilating the best practices for the organization of work and social behavior at individual level, generated by economically and socially more sustainable and prosperous environments. Also, this factor contributes to the reduction of poverty, as well as the increase in the living standards of the population.

On the other hand, the massive migration flows create significant distortions on the national labor market, bearing in mind that the economically active population has decreased by 1/5. At the same time, the population exodus rouses an acute demographic crisis at national level which, combined with low birth rate and high mortality rate, contributes to the drastic aging of the population and the decrease in population as a whole.

In this context, the evaluation and efficient management of the migration flows constitutes a high priority of the Government, aiming towards the proper monitoring of the returning and reintegration processes of the Moldovan migrants, creating good employment opportunities inside the country, thus preventing the exodus of the labor force, expertise, and promoting the remittances investments in local business.

The fourth Congress of the Moldovan Diaspora held two weeks ago, on 14 October 2010, in Chisinau, organized in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, which concluded with the adoption of a resolution on strengthening the relations between the Moldovan migrants with their home

country and their active involvement in its social, economic and political life, is a valuable example of the interest and the measures taken by the Government for the reintegration and mobilization of all its citizens for the development of the country.

Mme Chairperson,

Being committed to the goal of leveraging the international migration for development, the Government of the Republic of Moldova has adopted in 2008 the National Plan of Actions for stimulating the return of the Moldovan migrant workers, with the view to reduce the negative effects of migration, ensure the sustainable development of the country, stabilize the labor market and stimulate the entrepreneurship.

A particular attention is paid to the information campaigns for the population regarding the existing opportunities and facilities for employment and entrepreneurship. On April 30 2009, the national Center for Information on Labor Market was launched with the support of the Swedish Agency for International Development, which covers a wide series of consultation services and employment information in the Republic of Moldova. The local networks of employment agencies have been reinforced and the services provided have been made more accessible for the population.

Another project aiming at harnessing the remittances for the development of the private sector and implicitly, the return and reintegration of the citizens, is the Government's Pilot project for the Attraction of the Remittances in the National Economy "PARE" through which the state provides grants to cover 50% of the costs of the private business investments in the country.

Still, in conditions of reform and complex political transformations, the role of the international organizations and of the development partners remains crucial for the monitoring of the legal and illegal migration, as well as for the elaboration and implementation of the legal framework for its regulation. In this regard, the Republic of Moldova appreciates the work done and the support of the Mission of the International Organization for Migration in Chisinau, the OSCE Mission, UNICEF, UNDP and others, which develop comprehensive projects in the field of migration in the Republic of Moldova.

A special priority for the Government is the cooperation in the migration field with the EU, particularly in the framework of the Moldova - EU- Mobility Partnership which is being implemented for more than 2 years now. More recently, starting with May 2010, the Project "Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership" has been launched aiming at the reducing of the negative effects of the migration, and putting it to good use for development. The projects package under this framework is though much larger and it implies many dimensions – starting with institutional development, capacity building, to the provision of assistance to Moldovan migrants in and outside the country. One of the most important elements consists in the elaboration of the Extended Migration Profile which represents an effective tool for enhancing coherence between migration and development policies. This is a sustained process of gathering data to asses the present and longer-term impact of migration policies on development and to provide the necessary inputs to future migration policy and decision-making.

There are also many major international non-governmental organizations activating in Moldova – La Strada, Winrok International, Terre des homes, Medecins du Monde – to name only some of them, who come with various initiatives and assistance programmes for migrants, especially for the victims of the human trafficking.

With regard to the assistance to the victims of the traffic and the respect for human rights of migrants, the Government is tackling this issue from the social security approach advancing a series of bilateral agreements in order to encourage the rehabilitation of the people in their home country by our joint efforts and for the benefit of all. For this reason, we believe that the human rights dimension in addressing the migration challenges represents a prerogative for both – countries of origin and those of destination. We are of the view that strengthening the efforts of all stakeholders in this direction would facilitate the balance of the population mobility not only at regional level, but worldwide, with overt advantage for development. We hope that this particular aspect of the migration, together with other relevant issues, will be successfully and productively examined during the High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of the General Assembly to be held in 2013.

Nowadays it is clearly understood and proved that the legislative constraints in migration be it in the countries of origin or those of destination, do not contribute to the reduction in the illegal migration but, for the contrary, it can intensify it, together with the trafficking in persons and the criminality. This is why we are of the view that the best way to find a solution to this problem is to create opportunities for legal and balanced mobility of people and to develop an open and constructive dialogue with all stakeholders in bilateral and multilateral formats.

In concluding, Mme Chairperson, I would like to underline that the adequate management of the migration and strengthening its link to development is an important factor for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Republic of Moldova is firmly committed and open for co-operation with a view to accurately implement the relevant international instruments in the field of migration and development and human trafficking and respectively to build a valuable domestic legal framework and social environment for the return and reintegration of its citizens in their homeland.

I thank you.