



The Statement of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of
the Republic of Armenia
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Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I highly appreciate the opportunity to address this Conference aimed at reviewing progress in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action in the UNECE region since the ICPD Beyond 2014 review. I thank the UNECE and the UNFPA for arranging this review meeting in such an efficient manner.

The ICPD Programme of Action adopted in 1994 provided countries a sound basis for work in the area of Population and Development. During these years Armenia gained considerable experience and achieved progress on how government policies and programs can be designed and implemented to address population and development concerns. Despite existing challenges, the Government of Armenia has adopted effective policies and has taken active steps for achieving the ICPD goals and aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Let me reflect briefly on various reforms and activities of the Government of Armenia aimed at implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and fulfilling its goals.

The activities in the sphere of the **demographic policy** of Armenia stem from the provisions of the Strategy of the Demographic Policy (2009-2035). Currently, the Government of Armenia has taken certain actions to address the existing demographic challenges, particularly the low fertility, in the framework of which the benefit for second born child has been increased. Meantime the Government has initiated the development of short and mid-term evidence-based action plans to have more comprehensive and targeted demographic policy framework.

The current demographic trends appear to be a challenge for policymaking and we need to have more comprehensive and multilayer approach to better address emerging needs in ageing society. The Government of Armenia is committed to the consistent reforms in compliance with international standards to ensure the protection of older person's rights.

The main principles and targets of the Ageing Policy are the improvement of care and social services system, promoting healthy and active life, ensuring economic safety and social inclusion, participation in community life and decision-making processes.

Armenia has undertaken serious steps towards ensuring **gender equality and elimination of violence against women** in compliance with international legal instruments. For this purpose, legislative reforms in the mentioned area are being implemented. One of the achievements of the last years is the Law "On Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection of the Persons Subjected to Violence in the Family and

Restoration of Solidarity in the Family,” which has been entered into force at the beginning of 2018.

The Republic of Armenia has also taken broad actions to prevent the discriminatory **gender-biased sex selection** by combining legislative restrictions and legal regulatory initiatives aimed primarily at public awareness, transformation of stereotypes and capacity building.

Currently broad reforms are in the process in the area of **child protection** with the main objective to protect the rights and the best interests of children in difficult life situation, to ensure full inclusion of children with disabilities in the society, to provide targeted and community-based relevant services to families and children.

By ratifying the UN Convention on the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities** in 2010, the Government of Armenia has initiated the process of harmonising the Armenian legislation and state policy with the principles and requirements of the Convention. The policy framework aimed at ensuring full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities.

In employment sector the state policy is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and is aimed at achieving full and productive employment and decent work for women and men, young people and persons with disabilities, eliminating discrepancies, ensuring sustainable employment.

To foster the efficient implementation of ICPD targets there is a need for continuous coordinated work in all levels by consolidating the efforts and resources of state, civil society and international community. In this context I would like to express gratitude to the UN agencies, particularly UNFPA Armenia country office for constructive cooperation and continuous assistance to the reform agenda of the sphere.

In conclusion, I wish productive discussions and successful work.

Thank you for your attention.