

Third thematic session: Inequalities, social inclusion and rights

Towards implementation of ICPD Programme of Action

*Dear Madame Chairperson,
Dear representatives of UNFPA,
Dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen*

Young people are constantly affected by social inequalities, quality of education, health and social services, cultural differences.

We must respect the rights of young people, and that is not enough, the most important thing for us is to involve them in the decision-making process.

I would like to mention just a few achievements of the Government of the Republic of Moldova related to young people, such as:

- The new **Law on Youth** adopted by the Parliament in July, 2016, which redefines the youth age barrier for 14 – 35 years old.
- In order to develop, enhance and recognize the youth sector as a stakeholder in the country's development process, the Ministry developed the **National Strategy for Youth Sector Development 2020**, which will ensure the socio-economic integration of youth. There were established 4 main priorities within the document: youth participation; services for youth; economic opportunities for youth; strengthening the youth sector.
- Youth sector development is also a joint priority of the Ministry and youth self-representative structures. In this regard, it was designed and annually launched the **National support program for strengthening and development of the regional youth councils**. These platforms contribute to build a culture of genuine youth participation and empower young people to promote their rights and keep local governments accountable for mainstreaming youth policies at the local level.
- In order to capitalize the youth potential we need the civil society be strong and active. Thus, MoECR implements the **Annual Grant Program**, which allow NGOs to benefit of support, financial and logistic.

In the area of youth services and recognition of the youth work in Moldova:

- An important achievement can be considered **the National Youth Centres Development Program**, which is implemented during 2017-2022. In this regard, **the partnership between the MoECR and UNFPA was established by signing the agreement for the Joint Fund for Development of the youth services, including those most vulnerable**. The program will be implemented in the territorial-administrative units of the Republic of Moldova, where the local public authorities of the second level are interested and undertake the responsibility to develop and expand the territorial coverage of youth services.

Generally speaking, I want to believe that together we will use our youth as a resource, as a social category with intellectual potential and we will not treat them as a problem. Yes, the young people are our present, as it has been said at the conference, and we have to invest now because any message that young people are the future means permanently to postpone the investment in youth.

In conclusion

Moldova joins the statements made by other countries to submit the outcomes of this conference and the ICPD Report to the global review of the ICPD and to the Commission on Population and Development.