

ICPD 30 Conference (Armenia)

Thematic Session 1: Population dynamics and sustainable development

Statement by Mr. Davit Khachatryan, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

I thank the panelists for their interesting presentations.

Nowadays Armenia faces serious demographic challenges that will determine the future of our country for decades to come: declining ageing population, low fertility rates, substantial emigration, selective abortions. Given these circumstances, there was an urgent demand to bolster the capacity of the Government in addressing these demographic challenges by developing population strategies in accordance with the international best practices.

Over the past 2 years, together with our partners and UNFPA, the Government of Armenia has been developing a comprehensive Population Strategy until 2040. That Strategy is a product of a joint collaboration of the Government of Armenia, UNFPA, Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital, Charles University, esteemed local and international experts in demography studies. The strategy is based on fundamental research into demographic trends over the past 120 years and affects all demographic areas.

Mr. Chairman,
The humanitarian consequences of the influx of the Armenian population who fled to Armenia as refugees have created additional challenges for the Government of my country. Strong and efficient response by the international community is crucial to address the humanitarian needs of the affected population and ensure durable solutions, including safe and dignified return of those who want to go back to their homes.

Ladies and gentlemen,
By developing our demographic policies, we firmly believe that every individual should have the freedom to make informed decisions about his/her family planning, health and life. In that regard, the aim of the Government of Armenia is to build the environment that promotes sustainable and inclusive development.

Concluding, let us remember that behind every statistics, every report, there are real people with hopes, dreams and aspirations. The world today deserves our solidarity and commitment to inclusive, equitable, peaceful and sustainable future.

Thank you.