

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE  
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

The Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

L'Ambassadeur,  
Représentant Permanent

Nr. 1195

New York, 24 March 2017

Your Excellency,

I would like to express my deep appreciation and full support for the very important work you are carrying on the preparation of the Integration Segment of the ECOSOC, New York, 8-10 May 2017, as well as on all the range of events and high level meetings and forums that will take place during the April-July session, to culminate with the High Level Political Forum, 17-19 July 2017.

I have the pleasure to submit to you, hereby, Romania's contribution to the Integration Segment of the ECOSOC having the theme "Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?", in response to the letter of the Vice-president of the ECOSOC, from 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Wishing You every success in fulfilling your mandate, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Ion JINGA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Ion JINGA

**H.E. Ambassador Frederick Makamure Shava  
President of the Economic and Social Council  
United Nations**

**Cc: H.E. Nabeel Munir  
Vice-president of the Economic and Social Council**

## **Romania's contribution to the Integration Segment of the ECOSOC – Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: What will it take?**

**Q. 1&2.** 2015 was marked by the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development – the universal framework document setting up 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The universal, integrated and indivisible 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, represents a common reference point for all UN Member States.

At the national level, we are focus on formulating and implementing the strategies on sustainable development, climate change to comply with Romania's commitments as an EU and an UN member state.

The social policies play critical role in implementing Agenda 2030 in Romania and our priorities focus on achieving improvements in health, education, employment and social protection that may influence in a positive manner the demographic characteristic.

Romania adopted and harmonized the national social policies with the European *acquis* in all the sectors. The core priority for the Romanian authorities are the people, their needs and the implementation of integrated and coherent social policies focused on encouraging employment, developing social services at European standards and an integrated approach for helping the vulnerable people to get out of this state.

The main areas of governmental action for the 2016 were: labor market and social assistance; working conditions for the public function; incomes for the public function. The accent was put on enhancing the cohesion of public policies in the field of labor and occupation, as the unemployment is going from 1.15% in the Western part of Romania to 11% in the Eastern part of the country, with an average of 6%. Starting from December 2016, there are applied a package of mobility measures, co-financed with 500 million euro from the EU funds and from the state budget, aiming to help the vulnerable population with work capacity.

In 2016, also the sector of social services has been reformed, with the closure the process of 3000 requests for accreditation of social services providers and the focus on supporting the vulnerable families.

A framework protocol has been concluded between the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education on the implementation of integrated community services.

Some new programs have been created: the *New Room* for the socio-professional integration of the young people leaving the child protection system that ensures an integrated package of services, including housing, occupation, education, health and personal development; the *Grandparents of the community* offering support for old people; and the *New born children* offering a chance to a better life for vulnerable mothers and their children.

In December 2016, we adopted a Government Decision for streamlining the social assistance. For fighting poverty, in Romania there are regulated 3 benefits of social

assistance: the minimum income guaranteed; allocation for support of the family; allocation for housing heating for the period 1 November-31 March.

The current governmental priorities are focused on: raising the occupation rate of the labor force; implementation of the National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Reduction of Poverty; ensuring assistance and protection for migrant workers.

Last January, the Ministry of Labor and Social Justice concluded 15 measures in the area of labor and social protection, from the Government Program 2017-2020. Among those, 3 measures refer to the: new Program First Rent (the state will support the 75% of the costs for housing for the people finding a work place to more than 50 km from the domicile), increasing the pension point and increasing the insert incentive.

From 1 February 2017, the minimum wages per economy were raised. The payment of people assisting the persons with handicap will be made integrally from the state budget. The social scholarships for students was doubled; the minimum guaranteed pension was raised from 1 March. Some other fiscal measures were adopted and are implemented starting with February-March this year for stimulating employment and supporting vulnerable working people and retired people.

With the aim of stimulating the occupation of labor force, some active measures are implemented since December 2016, including: a bonus of activation for unemployed people finding a full-time job for at least 3 months, enhancing the conditions for the bonus of employment for unemployed people getting a job at more than 15 km and 50 km from home; encouraging the employers of people with handicap with an incentive for 18 months; encouraging employers of people that, in 5 years from the date of employment, fulfill the conditions for early retirement with a monthly state bonus.

**Q3.** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) coordinates Romania's development cooperation program, RoAid (developed within the cooperation with UNDP). RoAid brings together the work of the Romanian public institutions to support the alleviation of extreme poverty and the development of sustainable democratic institutions in developing countries. The MFA manages a special budget allocated to financing development projects and programs, core contributions to international organizations, humanitarian actions, and development education activities. The MFA works with partners from the civil society, academia, mass-media, the private sector and international organizations to bring a practical contribution to the global efforts of alleviating extreme poverty.

The Global Compact Network Romania (a network of Romanian business leaders working together to advance local and global sustainability) was launched on 15 May 2015. The members comprises the CSR Agency in Romania, representatives from the business community, non-governmental organizations and academia, all committed to: respecting human rights; improving labor conditions; environmental protection and climate action; anti-corruption.

**Q4&5.** There is no development without peace, there is no peace without development. There is an urgent need to address the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all level. Priority actions on poverty eradication should include: developing social protection systems that covers all the vulnerable categories; improving access to sustainable livelihoods,

entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources; providing universal access to basic social services; developing social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves; empowering people living in poverty and their organizations; addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women; working with interested donors and recipients to allocate increased shares of ODA to poverty eradication; providing general access to economic resources, to basic services and ownership over land and other forms of property, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services; reduce the exposure and vulnerability of vulnerable categories to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters; mobilization of significant resources from a variety of sources, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

We welcome the commitment of the Secretary General towards the reorganization, reform working practices and elimination of redundancies within the UNDS. It is a matter of ensuring effectiveness and transparency of the UNDS. We consider crucial to have General Assembly (decision-making body) and ECOSOC (talking-stock) as complementary, not duplicative, by focusing on their respective mandates and eliminating any situation of overlap. We support the process of enhancing synergies and coherence and reducing overlap in the agendas of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and their subsidiary bodies, including the HLPF.

We need more integration between strategies on climate change, development, humanitarian aid and peace-building issues that can be achieved only within an effective, action-oriented, coherent and problem-solving UNDS.