

Mister President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to participate in and address the 2015 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. It is only the second time that the Forum meets under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. And it does so in a crucial year for the world.

Inequality, social exclusion and environmental degradation threaten the welfare of present and future generations, leading even to overcoming the ecological limits of the planet. In some respects, humanity is close to, or even exceeded, critical thresholds. Degradation and unsustainable management of natural resources would limit our ability to reduce poverty of present and for future generations. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns can affect welfare and lead to widening disparities and social inequalities.

In the context of population growth and unsustainable patterns of consumption of natural resources, sustainable development is poised to ensure the balance between the economic growth, the quality of life and the long-term preservation of the environment without increasing the consumption of natural resources beyond the Earth' capacity to support.

We are confronted with universal challenges that require collective action. In the context of a universal development agenda, all countries must be equally and mutually accountable for fulfilling their respective commitments and responsibilities. As the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report states, "The new paradigm of accountability that we seek is not one of conditionality, neither North to South, nor South to North, but rather one of all actors — Governments, international institutions, private sector actors and organizations of civil society — and in all countries, the people themselves".

The implementation of SDGs and post – 2015 agenda will imply many changes, including the need for policy coherence and a new and more effective approach to accountability: accountability that means **responsibility**, which requires that all actors have clearly defined duties, objectives and performance standards; it also means **answerability**, the requirement to inform, explain and justify and **transparency**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will have a central role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post – 2015 development agenda, to be adopted at the United Nations Summit in September. It will be the global focal point for the review in a participatory, multi-stakeholder and, importantly, universal review fashion, starting at the launch of the new agenda.

We reiterate our strong opinion that there should be one overarching framework for post-2015 and FfD, covering all aspects of the sustainable development goals and targets, and all means of implementation (financial and non-financial) in a comprehensive fashion. Separate systems for monitoring and review will result in duplication of effort and diversion of resources.

It would provide a periodic occasion for individual countries to voluntarily present national reviews of progress, to discuss lessons learned in each country's implementation of the agenda and the opportunity to review both short-term outputs and long term outcomes related to attaining the goals, while promoting system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have already reached agreement on 17 proposed sustainable development goals. They have poverty eradication and the protection of our planet as their overarching objectives and build on the Millennium Development Goals. They also address the structural causes of poverty and inequality and speak to economic and environmental dimensions.

The periodical national reviews should build on existing national and local mechanisms and processes, with broad, multi-stakeholder participation, including the representation of national and local authorities, parliaments, civil society, science, academia and business. The countries are in the driving seat in the implementation process, particularly when it comes to reviewing progress on their commitments.

It would establish benchmarks, review the national policy framework, chart progress, learn lessons, consider solutions, follow up and report thereon. To that end, a Government periodic report, a national stakeholder report, with contributions from national non-governmental actors, and a report compiling existing information and data from United Nations agencies and international financial

institutions, all based upon globally harmonized formats, would constitute the main written inputs on individual country progress.

One overarching element in the proposed 17 goals is sustainable consumption and production, its cross-sectoral nature will determine the effects on the other two components – social and economic. Sustainable Consumption and Production goal is well outlined in the proposal of the working group, representing one of the missing elements of the Millennium Development Goals and considered as one of the causes of "failure" to achieve the 2015 targets. We therefore support the use of the existing instruments such as the 10 Years Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), which is the most important process of capacity building of international cooperation on sustainable consumption and production.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Integrated decision-making process and policy coherence for sustainable development are of the utmost importance for the Romanian government. In the coming period, we will up-date the National Sustainable Development Strategy taking into account the future adopted SDGs.

2016 will be the first year of the implementation of the UN Development Agenda post-2015 and we believe it would be appropriate to make a connection with the upcoming United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA). We consider that UNEA2 should address the environmental SDGs of the post-2015 development agenda.

In conclusion, looking ahead to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, integrated, multi-stakeholder partnerships for development planning, implementation and monitoring will be needed to ensure a transparent system that is accountable to people and the planet.

A partnership between governments and non-state actors can raise awareness, support governments in implementation and policy making, and promote an accountable and inclusive system of development planning and implementation. However, this involves dedicated relationship - and trust-building from both sides. SDG implementation process must promote such relationships, utilizing them for monitoring and review to ensure accountability and further national learning.

I thank you!