

Statement

It is a great honor and privilege to participate at this conference which has a great historical significance. On behalf of Romanian delegation, I would like to thank everybody involved in organizing this very important event.

We would like to begin by reminding you the general background of this meeting, meaning the global economic uncertainty, major population migrations, climate change, food crisis, social instability. In this respect, the field of housing and urban development could have macro-economic effects and a huge role in economic recovery.

Romania acknowledges the principles of this New Urban Agenda, respectively environmental sustainability, sustainable and inclusive urban economies, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

This year, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration has launched the National Housing Strategy project aiming to ensure access to adequate housing conditions for all categories of people until 2030. I would like just to extract some actions that have been identified: 1. revising and completing the legal and institutional framework; 2. improving housing conditions for vulnerable categories, including the diminishing of informal housing as well as the improvement of housing conditions for vulnerable and marginalized communities in rural and urban areas; 3. programs and financing mechanisms, including the follow-up of measures on seismic strengthening of structurally unsafe residential buildings.

The National Housing Strategy has been developed considering the objectives of Europe Strategy 2020, the measures included in the National Anti-poverty Package launched by the Romanian Government in February 2016, the National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, the objectives of Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the principles and recommendations of Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.

The UN housing strategy shows that, in order to achieve coherent and sustainable outcomes, housing must be linked with other strategies and policies, being inseparable from other objectives such as poverty reduction, social inclusion and economic development.

We would like to stress the importance of acknowledging the social mix and social cohesion as valid political public objectives. In our opinion, the right to housing must be unequivocally affirmed in our legislative documents so that the right to a decent housing shouldn't remain only a symbolic declaration.

We would like to end by welcoming the United Nations intense activity in the last 40 years and I express my hope that the New Urban Agenda will be used to the full extent in the forthcoming period by all of us.

Mr. Cezar Radu SOARE,

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Romania