

PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA ROUMANIE
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

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STATEMENT

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General Debate

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**Monsieur le Président,
Monsieur le Secrétaire général,
Mesdames et Messieurs,**

Plus que jamais, le monde se trouve face à des défis qui réclament des solutions globales.

Des conflits qui ne cessent depuis longtemps, le fléau du terrorisme, les catastrophes naturelles, la pauvreté, l'exclusion sociale, les populations déplacées – sont autant de défis que nous devons aborder de manière durable dans une approche globale.

Notre monde est de plus en plus poussé à chercher des solutions inclusives.

Il n'y a pas de paix et de sécurité sans développement.

Les Objectifs de Développement Durable nous donnent une nouvelle chance à nous tous et représentent « une impulsion universelle pour la transformation du monde ».

Ces Objectifs fixent un programme d'action ambitieux pour les prochaines années, pour éradiquer la pauvreté extrême, lutter pour la paix et la sécurité, lutter contre l'inégalité et l'injustice et protéger la planète.

Nous avons besoin de plus d'intégration au niveau de différentes stratégies sur les changements climatiques, le développement, l'aide humanitaire, l'éradication de la faim, la croissance économique et la construction de la paix.

L'orientation que nous donnons à nos politiques - sociales, industrielles, agricoles - influence d'une manière ou d'une autre le développement durable. L'expérience du passé nous montre que les approches seulement sectorielles, coupées les unes des autres, créent plus de problèmes que d'en résoudre.

En Roumanie, nous avons lancé le processus de transposition nationale des objectifs du développement durable.

Nous nous concentrons premièrement sur la prise en considération des changements environnementaux et climatiques dans les politiques sectorielles en cherchant une approche intégrée. Nous voulons assurer la transition vers une économie verte et circulaire en accordant une attention particulière à la bonne gestion du capital naturel et aux zones protégées, qui couvrent 25% de notre territoire.

La mise en œuvre des objectifs de développement durable et la transition vers une économie verte constitue à notre avis le seul moyen pour assurer une vie durable, inclusive et décente pour nos citoyens.

Nous considérons qu'une approche transversale des politiques énergétiques, agricoles, environnementales et du climat est essentielle afin d'atteindre les Objectifs de Développement Durable. Par exemple, dans les domaines du logement et de l'efficacité énergétique, nous avons récemment adopté un programme qui privilégie les technologies et les matériaux «verts» (La Maison Verte).

Cette année, en Roumanie nous avons aussi adopté un paquet national anti-pauvreté, y compris des mesures spécifiques pour combattre l'exclusion sociale et des mesures d'aide pour les enfants des milieux défavorisés.

Le développement ne peut pas être durable s'il n'est pas inclusif, tant dans son contenu que dans la façon de le mettre en œuvre. Pour cette raison, nous avons beaucoup investi cette année dans des instruments de gouvernance ouverte, en impliquant la société civile et le milieu d'affaires.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

The developments in the Eastern and Southern part of Europe over the last two years have highlighted complex security challenges in the wider proximity of my country. They are causing steps backwards from any perspective of sustainable development.

The belt of frozen conflicts around the Black Sea remains a serious permanent threat to the stability in the region and beyond. They put on hold the perspective of prosperity and respect for principles and norms of international law. We are deeply troubled by the use of hybrid warfare tactics and the illegal annexation of territories.

The growing instability in the Middle East, with the epicenter in Syria is a major source of proliferation of terrorism, of massive migration, of risks of instability not only for the region, but for the whole world. It must be tackled with determination. We need to encourage the process of reconciliation in the countries affected by instability, by setting-up policies aimed at promoting bridges between communities and ensure proper representation and inclusiveness.

We should reflect more on a strategy for the post-conflict reconstruction, building on the sustainable development goals and their targets, be it in Syria, Iraq, Libya or Yemen, and continue the discussions on the institutional process and financial contributions needed with all the stakeholders involved.

Romania is convinced that solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most important tasks that we need to accomplish and that could be a turning point on the road back to stabilization, respect for fundamental rights, mutual acceptance and prosperity.

My country remains committed to the UN effort to maintain international peace and security. Romania has long been a contributor to UN peacekeeping. At present, the Romanian military and police forces take part in ten UN peacekeeping operations and two special political missions.

Peace and security could not be sustained if the continued potential threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons persists. Romania is currently chairing the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization. Romania was clear in condemning the nuclear and ballistic tests run by Democratic Popular Republic of Korea this year.

I would also like to underline how important it is to rethink the relation between humanitarian and development policies as an opportunity to find new solutions and responses. It is up to us to build on the existing regional experiences and initiatives, some of them emerging in the follow-up process to the Istanbul Humanitarian Summit.

We need to go beyond sectoral approaches in trade policy, fight climate change, hunger and poverty, ensure food production and economic growth and to find a more inclusive institutional framework to put forward integrated solutions

Romania is stepping up its efforts to respond to these challenges in the spirit of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with our legal and moral obligations. Let me make three brief points to highlight our main lines of action:

Firstly, as an emerging donor and country of resettlement, Romania has been working to expand its contribution to the international humanitarian actions in the last years, by increasing its resettlement capacity and financial assistance.

Secondly, Romania continues to advocate for strengthening the respect of international humanitarian law and to constructively engage in debates on possible ways to improve the compliance with it.

Thirdly, in its capacity as President of the 7th Conference of the parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Romania encourages more accountability with regard to the implementation inter alia of the provisions on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

**Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Outrageous terrorist attacks have shocked the world this year and reminded us time and again that international terrorism undermines peace and security, wherever we may be. We cannot let terrorists take hold.

Terrorist groups cannot be countered only through military action, but also by reducing its attractiveness to its followers, particularly the young persons. We need to address the root causes that allowed them to develop in the first place.

Preventing radicalization is key, with action targeted on the underlying socio-economic conditions of persons in most vulnerable communities to radicalization and recruitment. We need more effective communication and education tools.

I commend the considerable progress achieved over the last few months in the fight against Da'esh in Libya, Iraq or Syria. It is of utmost urgency to deny them safe-havens in other areas, and to take all the measures to stop the flow of foreign fighters joining. But that is just one step. Those liberated areas need reconstruction and stabilization.

The idea that the response to terrorism requires multilateral action, based on international law, has been advocated by Romania for some time now. That is the reason why Romania and Spain put forward the idea of an International Court against Terrorism, as a means to ensure accountability for the horrific crimes we continue to witness.

Before concluding, I would like to express my appreciation for the active role and outstanding contribution that the UN Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, has brought to strengthening the UN position in the international arena and to promoting peace, stability and sustainable development. His leadership at the helm of this organization have been an inspiration to numerous people around the world.

My country is committed to continue to devote important political, diplomatic, human and financial resources to regional and global stability, in support of the UN's efforts in ensuring peace and security.

That is why Romania is advancing its bid for a seat of non-permanent member in the Security Council for the 2020 to 2021 term.

I strongly believe that Romania's experience and solid track record of building bridges and trust with all the UN Member States will bring a valuable contribution to the Security Council's work.

Thank you!