

Presentation of Romania's VNR

18th July 2018

The forum will next share the voluntary national review which Romania, and it's my pleasure to invite her excellency vice prime minister of Romania to make a joint presentation. Ex-lesson see, you have the floor. First, we will watch the presentation, the movie.

>> You are excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I have of seen in the short film, Romania made good progress towards a sustainable and resilient society. I am very proud to present here our first national voluntary review. The process of VNR guided our national entities dealing with sustainable development to work better, create work flows on setting actions and public policies oriented to the to the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the 17SDGs.

We are fully engaged to continue the implementation process of the 2030 agenda at national level and also to contribute on its implementation globally. We need to bobbing on synergies between diverse policy tools and to develop public policies to accomplish targets of SDGs.

For for Romania, the implementation of the 2030 agenda is a process of transformation towards a sustainable and modern society. On breaking the silo approach and effective implementation of the 2030 agene dad, the ownership of SDGs is not dealing just with one person or organization but approaches various sectors.

All ministries and institutions, all civil servants from central and local governments, decision makers and members of parliaments should be part of the implementation process. We need to strengthen dialogue and cooperation at local and regional level in order to create platforms and partnerships with all stakeholders who are interested in the in this process. These transformations will improve our economy, or environment and our society not only for the present generations but also for the future ones. A sustainable society can be achieved by cultivate ing a sense of belonging and community that ensures social inclusion on loyalty of natural.

Three afters the implementation of the 2030 agenda, Romania's national voluntary report is a proper way to assess the impact of our actions towards sustainable development as well as to establish the protection of our actions for the future. The report underlines the SDGs and the review at the 2018 high level political form by also including elements of other goals. The implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development implies poverty erad wags based of the leave no one behind promise and determines the first chapter of our report entitled leave no one behind. This presents the Romania policies and trends in developing an inclusive and sustainable society focussed on the social aspects on sustainable development. For Romanian, strengthening the institutional framework for development is essential.

In order to strengthen environmental governance, in my capacity as deputy prime minister and minister for the environment, I led the inter ministerial committee for the coordination of the integration of environmental protection in to sector y'all policies and strategies at the national level representing the main decision making body for sustainable development in Romjin ya. I am also the member of parliament and I consider the engaugement of the national parliaments of utmost importance for the imwill he men tags of 2030 agenda especially on setting the legislative framework.

In 2015, the parliament of Romania decided to create a subment for sustainable development and in April 2016 adopted a declaration of the Parliament on sustainable development goals of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Now, all the main provisions of the declaration states, the creation of the unit under the direct authority of the prime minister dedicated to the implementation of 2030 agenda.

In April 2017 by a government decision was created the department for sustainable development, having a main responsibility of the implementation of the 2030 agenda at national level. The department for sustainable development is led by a state counsel sell and he will present later the process is of the reviewing of the national sustainable development strategy.

We and our teams are working close, ensuring the coordination and reviewing the process of the implementation of the 2030 agenda at national level. After this introduction, I will return itch slight my colleagues who coordinated the rafting of the review to present the process of Romania's voluntary national review and its outcomes.

Thank you.

>> Excellencies, distinguished delegates, deer colleagues, VNR represents an enabler for suck siding in the implementation of the 2030 agenda and for paving the way of the implementation of the 2030 agenda at the national level. The six SGGs reviewed at HLPF this year are the engine that tackles the transformation to sustainable societies. Working on breaking the silo approach, such a complex and inter linked agenda requires the use of existing expertise at national level, gather the initiatives and define an ownership of the 2030 ageneral that in which a larger community should be involved.

Being part of the same process, drafting our voluntary national review and the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, started in the same time in September of last year, when the inter ministerial committee decided to conduct the VNR under the coordination of the secretariat of the committee and review of the national vat he gentleman for strangeable development under the coordination of the new structure established at the level of the general secretary of the government, the department of sustainable development.

On drafting the VNR, we have continued the work of stock taking the different information from various institutions at national and sub national level in order to localized the 17SDGs and 169 associated targets. The process of stock taking dates back from March 2016 after three months of entering in to force of the agenda, and all the ministries, institution itself, universities, and civil society representatives were invited and have contributed to the process. It was established an open working group who analyzed the information and begin drafting the document. In May 2018, we presented the VNR are with the title transformation towards a sustainable and resilient Romania being inspiring by the actual theme of HLPF. This VNR analyzes in detail the SDGs revised during this session, focussing on the six SGGs, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, and 17. The first substantive chapter entitled leave no one behind presents Romanian policies and trends on developing an inclusive and sustainable society focussing on social aspects of sustainable development.

As a short summary, Romania achieved the greatest economic growth in the European union, 6 .ed % in 2017, and also managed to achieve the 25% of energy from renewable sources, achieved since 2014, the target was initially assigned for 2020. This shows our commitment and belief in sustainable development.

Our unique and rich biodiversity calls all all of to us to remember a regional partnership in order to maintain the echo systems services and genet I can diversity required for a healthy environment and

healthy population. Romania dedicated effort to preserve her ecosystems and tackle air pollution by lowering the emissions from energy intensive industries, air pollution that otherwise would impact biodiversity. To make a Danube Delta requires a clean Danube river, consequently, all the nations that have their rivers to the Danube river need to come together and tackle the impact of the environment.

Romania plays an important role regarding the export of democracy in the region, as such we offered experience to our neighbors, promoting this way a strong community in this part of Europe, for a stable Europe. A stable political situation is required in order to preserve nature, growth, and assure human rights.

Our culture, along with our neighbors' cultures, and the ecosystem diversity represents the important base for a sustainable development. Diversity is the key for the resilience of the entire humanity in the limits of our planet.

On a final note, I would like to thank all of the members of the working group, all of the ministries, especially to my team, the unit of sustainable development within the ministries of environment, and whom contributed to our VNR. And also contributed to our VNR couldn't all be here today but who put a lot of effort and education in to drafting this report.

Now, I would like to give the floor to the next speaker, the coordinator of the department of sustainable development, Mr. Laszlo.

>> Thank you very much. Mr. Chair, ladies and gentlemen. As you see, in Romania, we are not just fully of gender equality but this is a delegation a little bit debalanced but in a good way, in my opinion. So I am in a huge debt and my colleagues are addressed in a team beautiful blue traditionally Romanian sustainable blue. I have just a sustainable tie.

So 2015 was a milestone for humanity. It has been three years since the adoption of 2030 agenda, the framework for risk reduction and the Paris agreement. All of these agreements have provided the world of Romania a vision, we need a vision but we need to implement the agenda. And the framework through which we can achieve the promises of a better and more sustainable tomorrow.

Our biggest challenge today is to make sure that nobody is left behind. How we are doing this? If we are to analyze this statement, with you must ask, what are we doing to achieve this? The sustainable future we desire begins with each one of us. Are we living a sustainable life? We need answers. Each of us. And we need answers on the level of communities, smaller or bigger communities, and on the global level. Romania is in a unique position. It is EU member state at the crossroads between central Europe, the Balkans and eastern Europe. Romania being a bridge between regions has division and I hope that we are, a regional hub to become and to be a regional hub for sustainable development. Such an ambitious goal requires hard work. Romania has had a sustainable development strategy dating from 1999. We were, in a way, regional at that time. But, of course we revised this strategy in 2008. However, with the 2030 agenda, we have considered it essential to revise it. We have finished our first draft and we are expecting to finalize this document this upcoming September. This strategy, however, needs an institutional and legislative framework so that the principles of sustainability can flourish. We are about to create the required environment from sustainable policy so that we can lay the foundation for the future. Ladies and gentlemen, to bridge the gap between politics and civil society, we are starting a movement to create the critical mass required to transcend the principles of sustainable development into common sense. It's very important now in this beautiful building, we have a critical mass, in my opinion, those

who are devoted to sustainable development. But we have to discuss with each part of society. It is only partnerships formed by leadership that Romania can sustain this this sustainable future.

In 2016, Romania established a sub comment for sustainable development. The parliamentary dimension is crucial. We need devoted sustainable development to understand what it means sustainable development. So we need informed members of parliament who understand the principles of sustainable development and include them in the debate and legislation. Therefore, we translate it to handbooks for par lip men day yarns to use when analyzing legislative drafts. In May of 2017 the Romania established a department of sustainable development a the vice prime minister mentioned this issue and, of course, we worked together to fulfill the implementation of agenda 2030. This defendant, with I I am heading, seeks to coordinate Monday tore and help in implementing the 2030 agenda. The first step the department has taken in implementing the 2030 agenda is the developing the strategy. We are creating a network with more than 1,000 educated individuals, many of ranging from academia, NGOs, public institutions, business leaders. And NGO public private sector with academic area. It's very important to have a good communications through the different segments of society. Partnerships are on important and such leadership requires expert. We have sustainable development experts, a new there are big focals in every publication, guiding, towards a sustainable tomorrow. We create both a committee headed by the prime minister in the consult of the counsel formed by experts from academia, civil society, NGOs and the private sector who can report to the parliament opinion. It's an independent body. To have faith in our policy, and we have here, a representative for the civil society.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is only the beginning. We, today, we are voluntary national review, as soon as possible, we million must finalize the institutional framework and, afterwards, we will set row Romania's indicators without data, without indicators you cannot implement this agenda. This agenda is a holistic document which means that we must together positive energies for a better tomorrow. It's important that during our presidency, we organize a meeting in partnership, a regional meeting, and so it is time to have, afterwards, that we will be able to reunite in 2030 after a job well-done and congratulate ourselves that yes, in our planets, time of need, we manage to work together, and create a better world for future generations. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

>> I cede the floor to the representative of NGOs. One minute.

>> Good morning. I come from civil society. I'm a board member, which is Roe main I can't's platform for sustainable development. It was created in -- I have a long speech so I'll try to shorten it. So it is the most active remaining NGOs we have a long partnership with the ministry of civil affair and we created synergies since 2007 when, Romania dropped the European Union. For us, I want to highlight the importance of the sustainable development '17 which is crucial for the agenda dad 2030, and also we'd like to stress the importance of the target 17, 14, enhance for sustainable development and we that we need more practical examples to improve monitoring and coordination at the national level, and support more coherence between different policy itself and access. I want to stress the importance of CSOs in the agenda 2030, and, also, to stress that it shall to call for international attention for the civil society which is a very important act for achieving the sustainable development goals. We are very happy to be here with the government at the same table. This is the beginning of a very beautiful collaboration, and as our micro leagues stressed already, we started to work together on the VNR, and hopefully, and we are planning to do a very good follow-up of after this, after this meeting. Thank you.

CSO statement

Thank you, chair. I think we can all agree that the 2030 agenda presents an extraordinary opportunity proper progress, and fulfill the rights for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in society. While there has inclusion in, and the needs are increasingly recognized in policymaking we're still far from leaving no bun about behind. So in that context, first, the Romanian VNR underlines the importance of education for the universal achievement of SDGs, **how is Romania planning to make it more inclusive and he can its suitable, for children with disabilities.**

Secondly, while it highlights the need for additional measures to protect vulnerable groups in general, it does not address the specific rights violations of groups such as the lesbians, gay, bisexuals, inter sex, **persons with disabilities.** These groups are increased risk of homelessness and pre curious housing due to the social I think so conclusion of the experience.

Moreover, food insecurity remains a burning challenge for the in Romania. Are there any measures to target these slight violations of the above mentioned groups, in Romania vat gee for the achievement 6, 11, and 15? And then lastly, on page 88 of – (statement was not finished due to time)

Response to statement

The distinguished representative of children and youth and now I ask the deputy prime minister to briefly respond to the questions from the floor. The in aal reorals sources, due to the compressionty forced by a number of threats, we have a national strategy for biodiversity protection, and does not represent a simple wear of action. It is a mix of action consists of four pillars. One, the first one, is the generation of resources, complex of ecosystem and decorated ecosystem explore ration. Is being, while diversity protection policies, in all sectors of policies. Third, promoting traditional and innovative technologies as measured to support sustainable development and smaller biodiversity. And fourth pillar is represented by fatheringer imhe Mr. Men tags of technology and implementation of biodiversity conservation.

On -- I will invite Mr. Bowedly to respond on another part of the question. Thank you.

>> Thank you very much. Regarding follow-up, this is the most important issue, so yes, as I mentioned, he with establish this institution, this inter department community which is the government of Romania, consultive con sell which is an independent counsel sell and to have reports in each year more in one year and, of course, to finalize an action plan as soon as possible. And for education, I will very briefly say to you that we started with more than 1,500 schools with translated from English, Romania, and to have to understand for the people what means sustainable development. And of course, on the level of academic area, it's very important to have universities more -- more students and more possibilities to achieve the sustainable. But I would like to ask maybe from the part of the civil society how it is looking this. Thank you.

>> Thank you. Yes, regarding the follow-up, I just wanted to mention, I'm part of this coalition, and it very general and it is about cooperation development. Now we just funded like recently actually like two weeks ago we funded a new coalition, it's formed by Romanian FGOs and it's focussed specifically on sustainable development. It's like 80 remaining NGOs and we make sure actually that we work together with the government and we put a little bit of pressure on the government to do

this a lot, we have some funds for that which very good, usually coalitions don't work really well well with those funds, but there's are an European project but sow it is particularly well funded at the moment and we have a meeting before coming here, we had a meeting, like, a week before coming here we did department of sustainable development and we discussed this aspects. Actually, we introduced each other to make sure that we can do this. And we make sure that this is happening. From our side.

>> I thank the vice prime minister and minister of environment of Romania in the very nice team, very interesting presentation and statement, as well as the delegations for the available contributions.