****

The Permanent Mission

of the Republic of Albania

to the United Nations

**Annual Session of the UNFPA/UNDP/UNOPS Executive Board**

**Special Briefing on**

**Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development**

**in Europe and Central Asia**

**5 June 2018 1:15 – 2:30 pm**

**Conference Room 3**

**Co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations,**

**Vice-chair of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board and**

**the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA**

The Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations, Vice Chair of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), - will organize a Special Briefing for Executive Board Members to highlight population dynamics in Europe and Central Asia region and their implications for sustainable development.

**Background**

Population dynamics form an integral part of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The size, structure and geographical distribution of human populations shape progress towards goals on top of the development agenda -- reduction of poverty and inequality; the provision of social protection and pensions; access to food and shelter, education and health; as well as pressures on natural resources and the climate – and, at the same time, are shaped by social and economic progress. They are inseparably linked with health, including sexual and reproductive health, the needs of young people, gender equality and prosperity.

Countries in Europe and Central Asia are at the forefront of the global demographic transformation. Population decline, intensive migration, and population ageing have a tremendous impact on the economies and societies of many countries of the region and their ability to realize the ICPD PoA and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 10 of the 17 UNFPA programme countries and territories in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, total fertility rates are at below replacement level, and in several of these countries populations are projected to decline by more than 15 percent by 2050. A major factor on this population decline is net out-migration (often of talented young people), while it also corresponds strongly with low fertility levels in many of these countries. These two factors combined with higher life expectancies in all countries also contribute to rapid population ageing, a phenomenon that challenges domestic social protection systems, including pensions and health care. Many of the older populations in these countries are also deemed “vulnerable”.

On the other hand, several countries in the region, particularly those in Central Asia, where over a quarter of the population is under 25, have young age structures that will continue to see population growth, and the potential benefits of a ‘demographic dividend’.

**Objectives**

* Demonstrate nexus between ICPD, SDGs and population dynamics;
* Provide a forum for Member States to highlight key demographic concerns and showcase policy responses;
* Highlight partnerships with UNFPA to address population and development priorities.

**Focus of the Discussion**

Taking into account UNFPA’s Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and recognizing that there is no one prescription to address demographic change, UNFPA supports countries in formulating and implementing policies -- or rather the right policy mix -- that is most appropriate given their specific demographic, social, cultural and economic situations, with emphasis on respect for human rights, particularly the realization of reproductive rights and gender equality.

The countries participating in the panel will present their concerns around low fertility, ageing, migration and shrinking populations; showcase policy responses; and identify opportunities for expanded partnerships. These include gender-sensitive family policies, investments in human capital, youth and demographic dividend, as well as data collection, analysis and use.

**Draft Agenda**

13:15 - 13:25 Welcoming Remarks, H.E. Amb. Besiana Kadare, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the UN, Vice-chair of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board and Dr. Natalia Kanem, USG and Executive Director of UNFPA

13:25 - 14:00 Members States Dialogue on population dynamics and national responses

**Investing in Human Capital Emphasizing Youth**

* H.E. Mr. Georgi Velikov Panayotov, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN

**Use of Gender and Generation Survey results for evidence based Family Policy Development**

* H.E. Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the UN

**Population Dynamics and Prosperity**

* H.E. Ms. Larisa Miculeț, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Moldova; Ms. Carolina Popovici, Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the UN

**Data and Census for Development**

* H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Ibragimov, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the UN

**Enhancing Technical Cooperation**

* Mr. Sergey B. Kononuchenko, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission to the Russian Federation to the UN

14:00 – 14:10 UNFPA Global directions and support on low fertility and ageing, Dr. Rachel Snow, Chief Population and Development Branch, Technical Division

14:10 - 14:35 Moderated discussion and way forward

14:35 Concluding Remarks - H.E. Amb. Besiana Kadare, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the UN, Vice-chair of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board and Dr. Natalia Kanem, USG and Executive Director of UNFPA

Moderator: Ms. Alanna Armitage, UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia