

## Statement by Romania

### OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

#### **Working Session15: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including ensuring equal opportunity for women and men in all spheres of life, implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and prevention of violence against women (19 September 2018)**

*Delivered by Olivia Rusandu, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice*

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

On behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice of Romania. I would like today to briefly present a few relevant aspects regarding the promotion of gender perspective and protection of women and girls in Romania.

I would like to point out that, for the Government of Romania, the promotion of gender perspective and the protection of women and girls' rights are fundamental values of social democracy.

From an institutional point of view, there is currently a stable governmental mechanism in Romania, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES), whose mission in the field of promoting equal opportunities and combating domestic violence, is perfectly attributed to a Government Program that for the first time includes a distinct chapter – Respect and Dignity for Women.

From this perspective, Romania has made significant progress by joining a number of relevant programmatic documents and conventions such as: the CEDAW Convention, the Istanbul Convention, the EU Strategic Commitment on Gender Equality 2016-2019, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through ODD5.

At the same time, in order to fully implement Istanbul Convention's provisions, a complex set of normative acts was approved in order to amend and complete the normative acts in force in the field:

- Law 178/2018 amending and completing Law 202/2002 on equal opportunities between women and men, which aims, in addition to regulating the equal opportunities expert profession, at introducing the concept of "*gender-based violence*" under the Istanbul Convention.

In the same time, it regulates the general structure of the equal opportunities expert profession and its main responsibilities, introducing the possibility for public and private legal entities, with more than 50 employees, to assign tasks in the field of gender equality within the job description of an employee, or to employ a dedicated gender equality expert, paid from the existing budget.

- Law 174/2018 amending and completing Law 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence, which is the most important part of the regulations, which introduces the provisional protection order (PPO), which is the key pillar of the new regulations, as an effective mean of emergency intervention in imminent danger situations, according to Art. 52 of the Istanbul Convention.

Through the two amended laws, the Government of Romania proposes a change of paradigm regarding the status of women in Romania.

In the light of the above, I take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of the Romanian Government to pursue the policies and measures needed to promote the principle of equal opportunities for women and men, prevent and combat domestic violence and violence against women.

Thank you!