



R O M A N I A

Statement by

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Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished colleagues,

It is a great honour to represent Romania at this important forum dedicated to the foundations of social development. In today's global context of rapid transformation - from digitalization to the green transition - our goal of ensuring full and productive employment and decent work for all is not only a social ideal, but also a key economic strategy for national resilience. Romania is firmly committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8, recognizing that labour market inclusion is the most effective instrument for combating poverty.

Our vision is clear: we do not aim solely for a higher employment rate, but for an improvement in the quality of life through decent work. This first and foremost requires the safeguarding of labour rights. Through the Labor Code and the firm actions of the Labor Inspectorate, we guarantee the observance of fundamental rights, health and safety at work, and the fight against undeclared work - a problem that undermines social protection. We have strengthened the legal framework for the transparent establishment of the minimum wage and promote the principle of "equal pay for equal work," essential for reducing disparities. We also recognize the crucial role of social partners; the new law on modernized social dialogue provides a solid framework for collective bargaining, contributing to the establishment of higher and fairer labour standards.

To achieve full and productive employment, our actions are strategic and supported by substantial funding from European sources, particularly through the Education and Employment Program, the Inclusion and Social Dignity Program (PIDS), and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). We value continuous vocational training as essential for adapting to the new demands of the labour market. Investments in education and lifelong learning will support the development of a flexible workforce capable of meeting global economic challenges.

In this regard, we are strengthening cooperation between public authorities, educational institutions, and the private sector to develop training programs that meet employers' needs and reflect the realities shaped by structural changes brought by new technologies, digitalization, automation, demographic shifts, and labour mobility – all of which present significant challenges.

At the same time, the inclusion of vulnerable groups remains a priority. We are focusing on young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs), long-term unemployed persons, and those in rural areas. We provide subsidies and incentives to employers who create jobs for these categories, turning vulnerability into economic potential.

We strongly promote the social economy as an effective model for creating sustainable jobs that foster the inclusion of disadvantaged groups. Finally, the new legislative framework on the minimum inclusion income not only provides essential financial support but also links social assistance to active participation in the labour market (where applicable), thus breaking the vicious cycle of inactivity and dependency on benefits.

For Romania, ensuring decent work is not merely a social policy – it is a strategic investment in sustainable development. Through the power of law, social dialogue, and the intelligent use of European funds, we are on the path to building a fairer, more productive, and more resilient labour market. We invite the international community to strengthen partnerships for the exchange of best practices in this field. The future of work must be a future of dignity for all.

Thank you!