STATEMENT

By the **Romanian Youth Delegates**

at the Third Committee of the 68th Session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 27 – Social Development

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Hello! Bonjour! Ola!

Monsieur le Président,

Vos Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, Chers Collègues,

Nous, les délégués Roumains de la Jeunesse aux Nations Unies, au nom de la Jeunesse Roumaine, tenons à saluer la décision du Secrétaire Général de nommer Monsieur Ahmad Alhendawi son premier Envoyé sur la jeunesse. Nous la percevons comme une décision historique dans le processus d'autonomisation des jeunes, visant à rehausser leur profil sur l'agenda global.

De même, nous acquiesçons à l'idée forte exprimée par M. Alhendawi que «Le temps c'est maintenant!» pour soutenir et intégrer les jeunes dans le processus participatif de la réalisation des OMD et d'établir l'Agenda après-2015.

Mr. Chairperson,

While preparing our participation to this session of the General Assembly, we have conducted a survey on Romanian Youth's priorities for our mandate and the post-2015 Agenda, taking in consideration also the MY WORLD Survey. Please allow me to quote and emphasize some of the opinions of the generation we represent: "young people are a vital resource for development, being the key-agents to social change, economic growth and technological innovation" (end of quote); "Youth involvement in the high-level decision-making process should represent a priority, as by actively participating, young people will be enforced to play a vital role in their communities' progress and of their own." (end of quote). These are some of their voices, which claim for access to action for Youth.

It can be easily observed that young people in Romania and from all the over world have led the recent social movements in their countries, thus creating real trends, expressing the need of a major change, no matter the field. We wish to highlight once more that, in our view, "The time is now" for change. And we think that it lies within our positions as youth representatives to wittingly and publicly assume the responsibilities of the "change" and 'youth empowerment" concepts.
If we look at the Youth policies Romania is working on in the last 2 or 3 years, such as the new Volunteering and Youth Laws, the Internship Law and the National Youth Strategy, we can see that the Youth contribution was consistent and determinant in the public debates for the final solutions. So that it is why we as well encourage and promote among our peers the active involvement of more and more young people in decision-making processes. Therefore, we strongly believe it stands within our generation's "bare hands" to ACT!

But, in order to participate effectively, we think that young people must have the adequate instruments, such as a 21st century updated educational system. Me and Eliza, both have in our backgrounds a Romanian leadership program called Leaders for the Third Millennium. One of its central axioms is "Romania for real begins with a school for real!" With full responsibility, we can paraphrase that "The Youth for real begins with a school for real!" In this respect, please allow me to give the floor to my colleague, Eliza, to develop on this matter.

Thank you!

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

I am not only addressing you, the ones being present in this room today, but I am also addressing the Romanian decision makers, the Romanian Youth, as well as each citizen in my country.

Saying that education is vital and that it represents the source of all accomplishments and failures of a society is nothing new. What would be new is to admit that mistreating education is a real attack to the security of a society, regardless the country. Each society finds its development and history in the hands of education, as also reflected by the MY WORLD Survey, applied world wide.

We, as Romanian Youth Delegates, we got here because we knew how to take advantage of each opportunity and learned from each problem we have gone through. I have always said that if I were to be born again, I would choose Romania as my origin country. Yes, it is not the perfect society and yes, Romania has its problems; but Romania has also great opportunities for those who know what they want, for those who work hard and follow their dreams. However, there are things that could really be improved in my country, such as the youth policies, the bureaucratic system, the national educational system and the attention that the decision makers give to the young generation. Romania's future depends also on the young generation. We feel that this generation needs to be provided with working places, higher salaries and a modern system of education.
As representatives of the Romanian Young Generation to the UN, we want to be the voice of the Youth needs and problems, but also the voice of the solutions that young Romanians propose for our country. After the survey we did across the country, we were able to see once more how it all resumes to EDUCATION.

We have also had the chance to see that our generation has courage in facing the economic crisis by creating their own businesses, by getting involved in social entrepreneurship or by investing in their professional education. Not only once the Romanian Youth has demonstrated its level of intelligence, its modern way of thinking or presented its solutions to different national problems.

Mr. Chairperson,

As the new academic year just started a few days ago, we would like to promote the message of the Union of Romanian Students, also known as USR: Respect for the educational process in the new academic year! As the biggest students’ federation in Romania, USR, together with other partner NGOs, such as the UN Youth Association of Romania, the VOLUM Federation or the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society, are joining efforts in making a difference in Romania on Youth policies.

In the end, we want to express our full support and interest for the idea that the UN Youth Envoy Ahmad Alhendawi launched short time ago: the creation of Youth advisory boards at national level - helping the UN to design programs and improve the work of the UN at the national level - to respond to the needs of young people. We strongly hope that our needs and proposals will, in the end, be fully reflected in the governmental track and that we will be supported in building global partnerships in order to show the real power of Youth.

Indeed, the Time is Now!

谢谢你！- SIENSIENII
شكرا لك- SEKELERLEKA
Спасибо! - Spasiba