

## **ECE forum – Geneva 12-14 January 2003**

### **Statement**

**Dr. Radosveta Stamenkova, Executive Director  
Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association**

**Afternoon session on January 12:  
“Global population and development trends: the European view”**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,**

I have the strong impulse to intervene to the Forum, being medical doctor by professional background on one side, and NGO person by hard and soul form another. In the last decade all my professional achievements, lessons learned and good practices were happening in the light of ICPD – the Cairo language, the SRHR concept, the Program for Action... This is my personal motivation to see Cairo + 10 and Cairo + 20 really happening and going further, going beyond.

We all have done lots of good things, lots of challenges are overcome and we can be, more or less, proud of ourselves. But I am thinking in the Central Eastern Europe (CEE) context. Shortening of funds makes us face serious challenges. I am worrying about CEE disparities. I am afraid CEE countries will stay out of the interest and priorities of donors. We still have to change many things and to work on many issues:

- Access to health care and provision of comprehensive quality services
- Access to information and education especially for young people in the field of SRHR including HIV/AIDS; youth involvement and public participation
- Including of health and sexuality education and life skills in the official school curriculum
- Special attention, services provision and advocacy for the underserved, such as Roma ethnic minority, migrants, internally displaced people and other marginalized groups.

CEE still has big issues to solve, even if 10 countries will join the EU in May 2004. It is vital for us to link ICPD goals with MDG in the next decade.

Let us give young people from CEE the chance in their future to be better parents than we were. Better parents in all senses, including SRHR – more communicative, more supportive, helping the informed choice.

Thanks for your attention!