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Before making a few comments on this session on international migration, let me thank the conveners for organizing this first European Population Forum and underline how important such meetings are for building a common understanding, vision and plan of action for Europe.

The importance of this exchange and discussions will be highlighted by my remarks which come from a very different background than most experts attending this forum: from an expert on ageing perspective, migration is of paramount importance, not only as a causal factor, but also as an effect factor on social and economic parameters - aspect often underestimated. As mentioned by Mr. Jonas Widgren in his opening statement - and it seems to be the only one to have mentioned it - ageing of the population is at the center of the socio-economic welfare of Europe's present and future situation.

Allow me to say that the ageing of the population is a "time bomb", often mentioned as the "Silent revolution". If not addressed urgently and included in such meetings and the future agenda of key leaders and decision-makers, its effects will disrupt the social and economic system in an unprecedented way and, if you look well, the first symptoms are already there...

Let me briefly explain and make a few points about this:

The fact and figures show that since Cairo ICPD in 1994, the architecture of the European and World population has drastically changed in its structure and its dynamics, a few crucial numbers will feed my comment:

- Europe is the global leader as the World's oldest population and continent for many decades and will remain so, well into the XXIst century from current projections
 - Today, up to 5 generations live together, of which increasingly we witness 2 generations of retired persons. Population analysis done by the INSERM show that the numbers of centenarians is growing exponentially.
 - From the various UNFPA and other reports, the youth generation (15-to 24yo) is the biggest-ever generation of young people and the older generation (60+yo) is the biggest-ever generation of older persons in number. Today, the number of elderly 60+ is superior to the number of children under the age of 15 and, by 2050, the number of elderly will be the double of the number of younger people.
 - The sustained decrease in total fertility rates and increase in numbers of very old have forced migration policy to include more and more non-European labor force.
- First, from the remarks this morning where no one will deny that the ageing issue has just about been 'excluded' from the debate, I would like to *call for a systemic approach in shaping a coherent migration policy*, which includes all generations and their dynamics (ie migration movements at all ages, past/future older migrants and their descendants). Failing in considering the architecture of the population in a holistic way, can only run the risk of advantaging one generation or group to the disadvantage of another, thus provoking a deficiency and rise in cost in another generation.
- Second, let us keep in mind that 4 to 5 generations are constructing the socio-economic situation and 'productivity' of our world, and thus the cause and effects must be considered with this parameter. Let me give a few examples: Migration is not only an asset for Europe's economy, if we look at it in other ways, with its effects on the dynamics of generations and 'economic balance sheet', what we see is:
- *Migration is dissociation of family ties* and consequently disruption in informal care which is no longer ensured, either for child care by grand-parents, either for grand-parents by their descendants. What consequence does this have on the economy? Well, the informal care of the child and the informal care of the older person transform into the formal care system the state must ensure, increasing the costs.
 - *Migration is dissociation of cultures* with consequences on the transmission of informal education, values and spiritual or religious guidelines – as mentioned by one of the panelist. Some recent

- research has suggested that the disintegration of links between generations is linked to an increase in violence and disruptive behavior in youth. Other examples could be mentioned in the education or the health. Let's take the health care sector: an increasing number of foreign carers are confronted with different values and religious systems such as end of life care, and today in Switzerland we are confronted with new problems to solve in the health sector due to the effects of the 'migration of culture' in both care-givers and care-receivers.
- *Migration is remittance, but also non remittance*, a report from the World Bank underlined that up to 50% of the migrants were not returning any benefits and there was no financial flow back to the country. The lack of informal care, traditionally ensured by the presence of the extended family, added to the lack of financial support could well be a factor of increased and sustained poverty in the country of origin, while benefiting countries like Europe. Just to mention, Switzerland's population, like many other European populations is remaining stable by the naturalization of its migrants, by mixed marriages and the higher fertility of migrant families.
 - Third, considering migration only through the labor force lens, could tend to make us forget that migration and key issues such as poverty is not the affair of the labor force only, but of the equal distribution of economic and social welfare to the whole society. 'Migration Management' should thus address poverty and other issues not only from the youth perspective, but from the ageing perspective too – there is enough evidence that poverty, violence, unhealthy lifestyles transmit from generations to generations. Addressing only youth, or only the labor force economic situation, is like pouring solutions in a 'bucket full of holes'. Without going into too many details, the case of AIDS is revealing: the UNICEF report recently released announced 20 million orphans for 2010 – the generation of parents in the labor force having disappeared - there are 2 ways of solving the problem: with the state social welfare or with inter-generational informal system. An efficient solution, both for the state and society lies in implementing and ensuring the rights of the orphans to reintegrate the grand-parent or kin family system and decreasing socio-economic costs of caring on one side for the child – street children – and on the other side for the grand-parent. The socio-economic strength of bridging and keeping lineages and extended families together is certainly today a guarantee of better independence and well-being of the population, freeing the state from costly measures in all areas to support the population.
 - As some colleagues have mentioned: 'migration alone cannot solve the problems of all generations', fine, but it should certainly avoid being the source of major present and future problems, that are not only in Europe, but moreso in the links, causes and effects, between European population and the country of origin population.
 - Lastly, I would strongly recommend in order to better understand movements and anticipate the needs, that some specific statistical data be released including the 'number of years of migration' in a host country as well as the 'number of years since naturalization' and that those data be - as much as possible - systematically disaggregated by age group, especially for older age groups beyond 60 years old.

I do hope, we will manage a shift in multilateral thinking where we can systematically reintegrate and mainstream the ageing population issues in our work. A lot has been written within the field of ageing in UNFPAs reports, but also for the Madrid Assembly on Ageing and the Berlin ministerial conference on ageing in 2001 by European countries and UNECE. Nevertheless, this work has still not received the attention it deserves at the UN and in European agencies: it needs both to be included in the European and global agenda in a more comprehensive way and be clearly integrated in the Millennium Development Goals. Only with a balanced and complete view of the architecture of the population will we be able to keep this architecture live and solid with sound policies.

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