

Romania – 2011

Mr. Bacin, Ms. N#stase

UN Youth Delegate Programme

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33. **Mr. Bacin** (Romania), speaking as a youth delegate, said that the active participation, employment and education of youth were needed in all societies. With their capacity for innovation and enthusiasm in embracing change, youth could ably address some of the most complex problems facing the world today. As recognized in the youth strategy of the European Union, youth involvement was not only desirable, but instrumental in shaping a better social, political and economic environment for the benefit of all. Encouraging youth participation must begin with information and consultation in order to build confidence in both young people and the relevant institutions and thus lay the groundwork for a strong partnership.

34. While youth participation was on the rise in Romania, only a small percentage of young people were involved in volunteer activities. He thus appealed to all young people to step up and engage in national, regional or international programmes aimed at improving their standing in society.

35. **Ms. N#stase** (Romania), speaking as a youth delegate, said that it was not enough to discuss youth employment in international debates; action was needed, particularly by providing access to adequate education and training, in line with the demands of the complex labour market. Young people must be provided with the chance to gain work experience through internships and their active participation in youth non-governmental organizations, as complementary to their education and in line with the times.

36. In order to address youth unemployment in Romania, her Government had passed a new law encouraging and facilitating the establishment of small and medium-sized companies by youth. In addition, various private companies were partnering with universities and non-governmental organizations to offer internships to young people. It was important to strengthen career-oriented guidance at the secondary and university levels, and to further consolidate partnerships between public, private and non-governmental organizations. The benefits of non-formal education and volunteerism must also be considered as part of the solution. She appealed to all Member States to continue scaling up efforts to create better conditions for young people, so that they could continue to develop their skills, fulfil their potential and actively participate in the building of a better society.

