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Commission on Population and Development

**Report on the fifty-fourth session
(19–23 April 2021)**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Summary

The fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development was held in a hybrid format at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 April 2021. Its special theme was “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”. Opening statements were made by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Burkinabè Abroad of Burkina Faso; the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

Informal consultations were led by two Vice-Chairs of the Bureau, Cristina Popescu (Romania) and Nizar Kaddouh (Lebanon). The co-facilitators convened informal consultations on draft proposals from 29 March to 19 April 2021. On 23 April, the Commission adopted by consensus the draft resolution on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/L.5). The resolution reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; expressed concern about rising levels of hunger and high levels of malnutrition; emphasized that the promotion of sustainable food systems and agricultural production were key elements for the eradication of poverty; recognized the crucial contributions of rural women to local and national economies and to food production; called for equal access of women to land and natural resources; expressed concern about the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on, inter alia, access to sexual and reproductive health services; called for greater efforts to transform food systems to make them more sustainable and resilient; urged Member States to take actions at the national and local levels that aim at enabling access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and diverse food and healthy diets for all, including those living in vulnerable situations; encouraged efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes; called upon the international community to combat the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic; and emphasized the importance of reliable, timely, high-quality, accessible and disaggregated demographic data for the review of and follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and for reviewing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Commission also agreed that the theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission would be population, education and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/L.4). Furthermore, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session in 2022 (E/CN.9/2021/L.2) as well as the draft report on its fifty-fourth session (E/CN.9/2021/L.3).

During the session, the Commission considered four reports of the Secretary-General.

The report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2021/2), prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, contains a review of global trends in food security and nutrition. In his report, the Secretary-General stresses that, while enough food is produced globally to feed the current population, the world is not on track to eliminate hunger by 2030 owing to inequities in distribution and access. After more than a decade of progress, the number of undernourished persons worldwide has increased in recent years, a trend expected to be exacerbated by the impacts of the

COVID-19 pandemic. The world is also not on track to meet nutrition-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, despite some progress in reducing childhood stunting and promoting exclusive breastfeeding: some forms of malnutrition continue to worsen, including micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity. Moreover, the current global food system is environmentally unsustainable and has major impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity and climate. Population growth and rising incomes will be important drivers of increased food consumption in many countries. The Secretary-General notes that population patterns and trends cut across all five action tracks of the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit: access to safe and nutritious food, sustainable consumption patterns, nature-positive production, equitable livelihoods, and resilience. In his report, the Secretary-General recommends, inter alia, adopting and strengthening policies, including incentives, regulations and dietary guidelines, that encourage people to adopt healthy diets based on food that can be produced sustainably. As policies to make food systems more sustainable may lead to higher food prices, Governments should supplement incomes among the poor.

The report of the Secretary-General on the review of the impact of the coronavirus disease on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2021/3](#)), prepared by UNFPA, found that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted food security worldwide and will likely reverse recent global progress towards ending hunger by 2030. By increasing poverty, disrupting public health and school feeding programmes and undermining major nutrition programmes such as food fortification, the pandemic is projected to increase the number of people enduring all forms of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, and issues of obesity and overweight. Substantial consequences related to human health and suffering are expected, including a worsening of maternal and child nutrition, which have lifelong consequences for learning, productivity and well-being. Many innovative programmes to sustain food security and nutrition under COVID-19 hold promise but do not yet operate at scale. New solutions are needed but should not eclipse well-proven and highly cost-effective programmes that were already underfunded before the COVID-19 pandemic, including sexual and reproductive health programmes; maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition programmes; food targeted at school-age children; food fortification; and incentives for sustainable agriculture.

The report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ([E/CN.9/2021/4](#)), prepared by UNFPA, provides information on the latest trends in official development assistance (ODA) in areas of central importance to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, including sexual and reproductive health, which covers reproductive health, family planning and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, as well as the collection of population data and the analysis of population policies. The data that were available at the time of preparation of the report pertain to the year 2019 at the aggregate level and to 2018 at the project level. However, initial research suggests that, in 2020, the distribution of ODA changed significantly owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout, and that there was a risk that ODA would decline overall in 2021 and beyond. In 2018, gross ODA disbursements for the costed components of the Programme of Action amounted to \$10.1 billion. Converted into United States dollars per woman of reproductive age in the developing world, that amounted to \$6.07, slightly less than in 2017. With regard to ODA for food security, nutrition and the development of the primary sector, which comprises agriculture, fishing and forestry, the largest share of

ODA was spent on policy and governance. A relatively small share was spent on actual support for agricultural production and efforts to boost agricultural output to ensure food security.

The report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020 ([E/CN.9/2021/5](#)), prepared by the Population Division, contains a review of the progress made by the Division in implementing its programme of work. In his report, the Secretary-General discusses the analysis of global trends in fertility, mortality, migration, urbanization and population ageing; the preparation of global population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of interrelations between population and sustainable development; the dissemination of population data and information; technical cooperation with and capacity development provided to Member States; and the support provided to intergovernmental processes, including through the preparation of reports of the Secretary-General and other parliamentary documents, the organization of expert group meetings, the contribution to inter-agency initiatives and the monitoring of internationally agreed development goals.

On 19 April 2021, the Queen Mother of Bhutan and Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA, Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, delivered the keynote address. In her statement, the Queen Mother said that global initiatives aimed at advancing women's rights to promote their social and economic development had yielded significant results in the past 25 years. However, too many women and girls around the world were still marginalized, living at or below the poverty line, with little control over their reproductive health and choices. COVID-19 had deepened and perpetuated inequalities and vulnerabilities for women and girls, and also highlighted gaps in policies and systems. Gender-based violence had risen, health-care systems had failed to provide reliable maternal and neonatal services and women faced increased domestic work, as well as job losses and food scarcity. She called for the international community to move beyond counting, quantification and assessments and to develop courageous initiatives and innovative actions to promote women's rights. She recalled that the momentum generated by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development deeply influenced the course of development in Bhutan. The country's commitment to providing universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and advancing the rights and choices for women and girls brought about significant changes and visible impacts. Still, the country's young people faced several challenges, including unmet needs for modern contraception and low levels of comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS among adolescents. The Commission's focus on food security and nutrition came at a critical time, as the COVID-19 pandemic was having a profound impact on health-care systems, food security and gender equality. She stressed that it was imperative to ensure that vaccines were recognized as global public goods, and that they were made accessible to all countries in an equitable and fair manner.

Also on 19 April, an interactive expert panel discussed the reports of the Secretary-General that had been prepared for general debate (agenda item 3). The panel was moderated by Vice-Chair Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales (Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations), and included the following experts: Senior Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Cheryl Sawyer; Senior Economist, FAO, Lorenzo Bellù; Technical Specialist, Population and Development Branch, UNFPA, Sandile Simelane; Director of School-based Programmes, World Food Programme, Carmen Burbano; and Senior Adviser, UNFPA, Michael Herrmann. Panellists noted that population size and distribution were important drivers of the demand for food. Furthermore, unhealthy diets were creating health burdens across

the world and inadequate nutrition and anaemia were contributing to worsening development outcomes. Food production was taking a heavy toll on the environment, exacerbated by the large amount of food waste worldwide. Pandemic-related disruptions of food systems were reversing progress towards erasing hunger by 2030 and providing a stark reminder of the vast inequality that exists around the world, especially for people affected by humanitarian crises and other vulnerable groups. The COVID-19 pandemic had reduced access to school-based nutrition programmes for hundreds of millions of children. The impact of school closures was particularly dire for girls, who were vulnerable to early marriage, adolescent pregnancy and abuse. Nutrition programmes for pregnant women and infants, already underfunded before the pandemic, were also affected. Looking towards the future, producing enough food to meet the needs of an increasing population while using fewer resources would require an approach combining scientific progress with indigenous knowledge. It was recommended that Governments ensure universal access to high-quality social services that allowed vulnerable populations to obtain the human capital required to raise their earning potential, including by ensuring that women, young people and older persons had access to land, capital, training, services and technologies. International aid flows were insufficient, both for population-related programmes and for interventions that had direct positive impacts on small farms.

On 20 April, a high-level panel on the road towards the Food Systems Summit was held, followed by interactive debate. The panel was moderated by the Director of the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn in Germany, Joachim von Braun, and consisted of the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ligia Noronha; the Chief Economist of FAO, Maximo Torero Cullen; the Director of the Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division of IFAD, Jyotsna Puri; the Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA2063, Ousmane Badiane; the Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Lawrence Haddad; and the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Thought for Food, Christine Gould. The panellists discussed links between population trends and policies, food systems, nutrition and sustainable development and described innovative approaches to transform global food systems – assuring that an end to hunger can be within reach. The experts discussed the main impacts of current food systems on nature and climate and how they limit the ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. They addressed proposals to transform food systems – through science, technology and youth-led initiatives – in order to end hunger and improve the well-being of vulnerable populations. The experts stressed the crucial roles of: (a) reducing inequality to ensure everyone can eat healthy diets and move out of poverty; (b) upholding human rights, creating jobs and ensuring equity across the value chain; (c) developing skills to address all aspects of food system transformation; (d) working together to consolidate disparate efforts to transform food systems; (e) increasing the resilience of food systems by focusing on the needs of small-scale farmers; and (f) bridging the digital divide by increasing access to digital tools for young people. During the interactive discussion, attention was brought to the relevance of proper maternal and early childhood nutrition. Global leaders were called on to provide youth with a platform for change and to invest in health-care systems affected by the pandemic. It was noted that access to good nutrition for newborns must become a priority and that breastfeeding played a central role in ensuring proper nutrition. The role and contribution of young people and activists in efforts to transform food systems was highlighted.

On 21 April, the Commission hosted a multi-stakeholder panel on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development, followed by an interactive debate. The panel was moderated by the Director General of the European Public Health Alliance, Milka Sokolović, and consisted of Associate Professor and leader of the flagship research programme Food Systems for Healthier Diets in the Division of Human Nutrition and Health, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, Inge D. Brouwer; the Head of the Multisectoral Actions in Food Systems Unit at the World Health Organization, Luz Maria De-Regil; a nutritionist at Feed the Children in Kenya and Youth Leader for Nutrition in the Civil Society Network of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, Jane Napais Lankisa; Senior Researcher at and former Director of the Institute of Nutrition at Mahidol University in Thailand, Emorn Udomkesmalee; and Professor of Ecosystem Management in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut, Rami Zurayk. Panellists discussed obstacles to food security and sustainable food systems. The topics addressed included the changing nature of food systems; maternal, child and adolescent nutrition; the autonomy of women and girls and its relation to food security; and the impacts of climate change, armed conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic on food security for affected people. The speakers noted that access to healthy and nutritious foods was often more difficult for low-income and marginalized households, and that the pandemic had worsened food insecurity and malnutrition, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups. The panellists highlighted the need for a holistic, multisectoral approach to achieving food security and sustainable food systems. They pointed to the importance of women's empowerment, youth participation and the engagement of the private sector in finding solutions to feeding the world's population. The panellists emphasized the need for a humane and rights-based approach to strengthening food systems. They also emphasized that policies and programmes needed to be context-sensitive and based on appropriately disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind. During the interactive discussion, delegations noted the need for a whole-of-society approach to addressing the numerous challenges related to hunger and malnutrition and delivering safe, nutritious diets. They discussed how best to adapt agricultural production to achieve sustainability and stressed the importance of local factors that affect food availability and access, including climate. Participants noted the double challenge of undernourishment and hunger on one hand and rising levels of obesity and unhealthy diets on the other. The role of faith-based organizations in improving food security and nutrition was stressed.

On 22 April, the Commission heard an expert panel on the programme of work in population, followed by an interactive debate. Panellists were national technical experts: Senior Researcher at the French Institute for Demographic Studies and co-head of its research team on the "Demography of the Global South", Géraldine Duthé; the Deputy Director General of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research of Japan, Hayashi Reiko; the Head of the National Population Council of Mexico, Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez; and the Chief Director of the National Population Unit of South Africa, Jacques van Zuydam. The panel was moderated by the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, John Wilmoth. Panellists noted key population challenges in their countries, including changing population age structures and the varied challenges for countries at different stages of the demographic transition; challenges in ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health care for all, including adolescents; and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Panellists commended the achievements of the Population Division and expressed their support for a further strengthening of the analytical and dissemination activities of the Division. The experts acknowledged the challenges of reflecting the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in estimates and projections of

fertility, mortality, migration and the total population. Experts emphasized the contribution of the analytical work of the Division on population ageing and suggested creative ways that the Division could enhance its support to Governments concerning population policies. In the interactive discussion, delegations called for the subnational disaggregation of data, as well as increased emphasis on investment in youth and on helping countries track and respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. One speaker encouraged the Division to expand its consideration of data from new and alternative sources and to strengthen linkages to organizations providing such data.

In their statements during the general debate, delegations underscored their commitment to implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They pointed to the relevance of the theme of the fifty-fourth session, “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”, to the upcoming Food Systems Summit and the high-level political forum. Several statements also pointed to the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on progress towards implementing the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda – in particular towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals and targets related to poverty, hunger, health, education and gender equality. To address the impacts of the pandemic, delegations mentioned actions that included the provision of emergency food aid and food vouchers, measures to protect women against domestic violence, the provision of financial support to the most affected families and support for improved access to maternal, child and reproductive health-care services, among others. They also emphasized the importance of evidence-based decision-making, the continuing relevance of the Programme of Action and the role of the Commission on Population and Development in assessing the implementation of the Cairo agenda that emerged from the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development as well as the 2030 Agenda.

Some 239 representatives of 96 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with the Economic and Social Council registered to attend the annual session. A total of 27 written statements on behalf of individual organizations or groups of NGOs had been submitted well in advance and became documents of the session. In addition, 18 representatives of NGOs delivered oral statements from the floor. During the general debate, NGOs called on the Commission to come to a consensus on a resolution on the special theme of the fifty-fourth session, and on Member States to ensure equitable access to healthy diets and nutritious foods and to quality and inclusive education for all, and advocated for the integration of nutrition into services for family planning and reproductive health. NGOs were also consulted during the informal consultations on the draft resolution.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-fifth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fourth session;¹

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.²
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session

3. General debate:
 - (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
 - (b) Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

Report of the Secretary-General on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2021, Supplement No. 5 (E/2021/25)*.

² In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its fifty-fourth session, held the 1st meeting of its fifty-fifth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2021: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs³

5. Provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution and decision were adopted by the Commission and are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 2021/1

Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

The Commission on Population and Development,

Reaffirming the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development⁴ and the key actions for its further implementation,⁵ the declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development⁶ and previous resolutions of the Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the outcomes of relevant United Nations high-level meetings, conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁷

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which

³ The preparation of the proposed programme budget for 2022 is scheduled to be finalized in the first half of 2021.

⁴ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ See General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-21/5/Rev.1)*; and A/S-21/PV.9.

⁶ E/2019/25-E/CN.9/2019/L.3.

⁷ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030 ensuring that no one is left behind, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming further its full commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the blueprint for building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic, and calling upon Member States to ensure that efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for all, by reaching all its Goals and targets, are strengthened and accelerated in this decade of action for building more sustainable, peaceful, just, equitable, inclusive and resilient societies where no one is left behind,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁸ and the obligations of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹⁰ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹¹ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹³ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination¹⁴ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,¹⁵

Reaffirming the Paris Agreement,¹⁶ and encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹⁷ that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹⁸ recalling also its promotion of regular disaster risk preparedness, prevention, response and recovery exercises, at the national and local levels, recalling further the New Urban Agenda,¹⁹ and reaffirming the importance of promoting the integration of food

⁸ General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

⁹ See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

¹⁶ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

security and the nutritional needs of urban residents, particularly the urban poor, in order to end hunger and malnutrition,

Expressing concern that climate change will disproportionately impact developing countries, local and marginalized communities and people in vulnerable situations, especially women and children, and their livelihoods,²⁰ ultimately putting hundreds of millions of people at risk, and that by 2050, the risk of hunger and child malnutrition could increase by up to 20 per cent owing to the adverse impacts of climate change, and reiterating the urgent need for action to build resilience, especially for the poorest and those in vulnerable situations, by investing in prevention and preparedness, including disaster risk reduction, especially in adaptation and mitigation strategies, and enhancing joint risk assessments and risk management strategies to cut the impact and cost of natural disasters to address the adverse effects of climate change on food security, including for women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, local and rural communities, as well as the other root causes of food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and to ensure rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs,

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage,²¹ which reaffirmed the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognized that food security and food safety, adequate nutrition and sustainable, resilient and diverse nutrition-sensitive food systems are important elements for healthier populations,

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [70/259](#) of 1 April 2016, by which it proclaimed the period 2016–2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, recalling also General Assembly resolution [72/239](#) of 20 December 2017, by which it proclaimed the period 2019–2028 the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, which raises the profile of the role of family farming in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of poverty eradication, food security and improved nutrition, recalling further the Rome Declaration on World Food Security of 13 November 1996, the 2009 Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security,²² particularly the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, and noting the 2014 Rome Declaration on Nutrition,²³ as well as its Framework for Action,²⁴

Emphasizing the urgent need for international cooperation to improve the sustainability of food systems, especially methods of production, processing, conservation and distribution of food, including through the dissemination of technical and scientific knowledge, and by developing and reforming food systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient, sustainable development and utilization of natural resources to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need,

²⁰ Based on Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

²¹ General Assembly resolution [74/2](#).

²² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

²³ World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Acknowledging the importance of achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production and thereby easing pressure on ecosystems, and recognizing the fundamental role of sustainable food systems that promote food security and nutrition for the world's growing population and contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and human health,

Emphasizing the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, particularly undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under 5 years of age and anaemia in women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, and in infants and young children, among other micronutrient deficiencies, as well as to address the rise in undernourishment, reverse the rising trends in overweight and obesity and reduce the burden of diet-related non-communicable diseases in all age groups,

Expressing deep concern that preliminary estimates indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic may have added an additional 83 million to 132 million people worldwide in 2020 to the ranks of the hungry,

Recognizing the crucial contributions of rural women to local and national economies and to food production and to achieving food security and improved nutrition, and expressing deep concern that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination,

Recognizing also that poverty in all its forms and dimensions, financial and economic crises, inequalities, including gender inequality, conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, disease outbreaks and pest infestations, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, deforestation, desertification, land degradation, droughts and floods, water scarcity and the adverse effects of climate change, including more frequent and extreme weather events and environmental degradation, as well as energy insecurity and unplanned and rapid urbanization are among the key factors contributing to a reversal in fighting global hunger, making the prospect of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 more difficult,

Acknowledging the need to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery as one of the sources of financing for development with a view to reducing hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture,

Deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, education, health systems, global trade, supply chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, as well as its significant impact on food prices, is exacerbating vulnerabilities and inequalities and having a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and violence in digital contexts, food security and nutrition, access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation, and environmentally sound waste management, especially for the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind, in particular in developing countries, including countries in special situations and those facing specific challenges, which imposes greater challenges and demands extra efforts to achieve all Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition for all,

Recognizing that women and girls play a vital role as agents of development, acknowledging that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls are crucial to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing also that nutrition and other related policies should be sensitive to the rights and needs of women and empower them, thereby contributing to women's equal access to social protection and resources, including income, land, water, finance, employment, inheritance, quality education at all school levels and lifelong learning opportunities, training, science and technology, and health-care services, thus promoting food security and health,

Recognizing also that health is a precondition for economic and social development, and aware that sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights are central to the realization of social justice and to the achievement of global, regional and national commitments for sustainable development,

Expressing concern that, in spite of the progress made towards achieving the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, considerable gaps still exist in its implementation, and in that regard noting the voluntary commitments by Member States to further the implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraging further actions by Member States for their implementation in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,

Stressing that reliable, timely, high-quality, accessible and disaggregated demographic data need to be a central focus of any effort to strengthen statistical systems for the review of and follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and for reviewing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and the importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of population data and statistics disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts for policy formulation by all countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development²⁵ and the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the impact of the coronavirus disease on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development;²⁶

2. *Also reaffirms* the sovereign right of each country to implement the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development or other proposals in the present resolution, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights;

3. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation and the outcomes of its reviews, and notes the outcome documents of the regional review conferences, stressing that the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development for each region that adopted the particular outcome documents;

²⁵ E/CN.9/2021/2.

²⁶ E/CN.9/2021/3.

4. *Calls upon* Governments to take concrete measures towards the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, respect human rights, including the right to development, and fundamental freedoms, reduce inequalities within and among countries, and achieve sustainable development, and stresses that population dynamics are all important for development, including for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁷ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;²⁸

5. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of sustainable food systems and agricultural production and fishing, including agroecological practices and other innovative approaches, food security, nutrition and food safety are key elements for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including the feminization of poverty, and calls for greater efforts, including through the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance, to transform food systems to make them more sustainable and resilient to achieve food security in developing countries, especially focusing efforts in support of family farming and small and medium producers, including fishers and fish workers, as well as to accelerate and scale up action, as appropriate, to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems and people's livelihoods in order to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and to achieve a world without hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 and contribute to the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Recognizes* that sustainable food systems have a fundamental role to play in promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition and preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, in particular diet-related non-communicable diseases, ensuring healthy growth, strengthening immune systems and improving cognitive development, and welcomes the formulation and implementation of national sustainable development-aligned strategies and gender-sensitive policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition in all its forms and transforming food systems so as to make nutritious diets, including traditional healthy diets, available to all, while reaffirming that health, water and sanitation systems must be strengthened simultaneously to end malnutrition;

7. *Urges* Governments to ensure equal opportunities for, and promote gender equality and empowerment of, women and girls in leadership and policy decision-making, supporting women, especially in rural contexts, and calls for closing the gender gap in access to productive resources in agriculture, noting with concern that the gender gap persists with respect to many assets, inputs and services, and stresses the need to invest in and strengthen efforts to support the empowerment of all women and girls, in particular those living in rural settings, to address their own food and nutritional needs and those of their families and to develop their farming businesses to increase the chances of a demographic dividend, to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent work, to ensure equal pay for equal work, and to ensure to the maximum extent possible their personal health, well-being and security, equal access to inheritance, property rights, land and natural resources and access to affordable, low-cost, long-term loans and to local, regional and global markets, taking into account that the prevalence of food insecurity puts the health and lives of women and children at risk;

²⁷ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

²⁸ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

8. *Calls upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, reduce food losses and prevent and reuse food waste, support workers, fishers and farmers, including smallholder farmers, rural women and youth, and migrant and seasonal workers in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilize and allocate adequate sustainable management and use of resources and enhance institutional capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture and food systems, provide continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food, and provide adequate social safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods and increasing food prices on food insecurity and malnutrition, and underlines that the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating existing high levels of acute food insecurity, malnutrition and humanitarian needs;

9. *Urges* Member States to safeguard food security and nutrition for all, including women, children, adolescents and youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, rural populations and rural producers, displaced persons, refugees and migrants, the urban and rural poor, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and those living in vulnerable situations, including those enduring humanitarian crises, the adverse effects of climate change or economic shocks, inter alia, by promoting economic, social and environmental policies to counteract the adverse impact of economic slowdowns and downturns on efforts to end hunger and malnutrition;

10. *Also urges* Member States to take multisectoral action to promote active and healthy lifestyles, including physical activity for the benefit of all people throughout their life course, and ensure a world free from malnutrition in all its forms, where all people are empowered to take responsibility for their own health, supported by public regulatory measures, and have access to safe drinking water and sanitation and safe, sufficient and nutritious food and enjoy diversified, balanced and healthy diets throughout their life course, with special emphasis to the nutrition needs of pregnant and lactating women, women of reproductive age and adolescent girls, and of infants and young children, especially during the first 1,000 days, including, as appropriate, through exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months, with continued breastfeeding to 2 years of age or beyond, with appropriate complementary feeding;

11. *Urges* Governments and the international community to ensure that young people, on an equitable and universal basis, enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by providing them with access to sustainable health and social services without discrimination, by paying special attention to nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, and by supporting measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, as well as the removal of all types of barriers to the ability of adolescents and youth to protect their health, and to actively support and invest in increased participation of young people and in youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the formulation, decisions about, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of, as appropriate, international, regional, national and local development strategies and policies that affect young people;

12. *Recognizes* that children who are given the opportunity to grow and develop in a healthy environment that is responsive to their needs, including breastfeeding, and that, at a young age, fosters and encourages healthy behaviour and lifestyles, including access to healthy dietary choices and school meals and regular physical activity, and promotes the maintenance of healthy lifestyles, can greatly

reduce the risk of childhood obesity and of non-communicable diseases in adulthood, and meet their full potential;

13. *Recognizes further* the steep toll that COVID-19 has placed on national health systems, and calls upon Member States to maintain the continued functioning of health systems and achieve universal health coverage, including primary health care, in all relevant aspects necessary for an effective public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls upon Member States to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;

14. *Expresses concern* that schoolchildren who normally rely on school meals for a reliable source of daily nutrition might not have access to regular school feeding and nutrition services due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, and calls upon Member States to mitigate the effects of school closures, including on child nutrition, which may affect girls and boys differently, especially adolescent girls, who, owing to negative social norms, are more likely to be expected to take on unpaid care and domestic work, limiting their access to remote learning and other education support programmes, and may put them at a greater risk of harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, child labour and trafficking in persons, and unintended pregnancies, which may lead to girls leaving school before the completion of their education and never returning to school as a result;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to actively support the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) and to take and strengthen action to prevent, monitor and address the disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons, paying particular attention to nutritional deficiencies and associated diseases in the design and implementation of health promotion and prevention programmes for older persons;

16. *Encourages* efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets, for the needy and those living in vulnerable situations and those facing discrimination, such as food and cash-for-work, direct benefit transfer, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

17. *Urges* Member States to take actions at the national and local levels that aim at enabling access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and diverse food and healthy diets for all, while complying with sanitary provisions and food safety standards, and urges all stakeholders to strengthen small-scale producer access to local, regional and national markets, and emphasizes in this regard the role of small-scale and family farming in achieving food security and in providing livelihoods;

18. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and academia, to strengthen solidarity and multilateral cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation to combat the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and to intensify the contributions of all actors to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

19. *Urges* Member States to enable global equitable, affordable and timely access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and health-care services, including as supported through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and other relevant initiatives, especially in low- and middle-income countries, accelerating the global recovery and contributing to putting an end to the pandemic;

20. *Welcomes* the initiative by the Secretary-General to convene the Food Systems Summit in 2021 as part of the decade of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and looks forward to the upcoming Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, to be held in 2021;

21. *Calls upon* the United Nations Population Fund to continue to play a crucial role, within its mandate, in assisting countries, based on their needs and in consultation with them, to enable countries to achieve the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on population and development, including on the interactions between population dynamics, inequalities and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, to pursue further improvements in the accessibility and timeliness of disaggregated population data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia, and, in collaboration with the United Nations system and relevant organizations outside the United Nations, civil society and academia, to continue assessing and reporting on progress towards the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Decision 2021/101

Special theme for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme for its fifty-sixth session, in 2023, shall be “Population, education and sustainable development”.

Chapter II

General debate:

(a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

(b) Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

3. The Commission considered sub-items (a) and (b) under item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 23 April 2021, and convened six virtual informal meetings to hold a general discussion as well as three interactive panel discussions, comprising one high-level panel, one multi-stakeholder panel and one expert panel. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex II to the present report. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2021/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the impact of the coronavirus disease on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development ([E/CN.9/2021/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ([E/CN.9/2021/4](#)).

4. The Commission also had before it a number of statements submitted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.²⁹

Action taken by the Commission

Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 April, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 2021/1).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of France (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine), Brazil, Colombia, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Mexico, Israel and Turkey, as well as by the observers for Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic, Australia (also on behalf of

²⁹ [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/1](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/2](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/3](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/4](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/5](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/6](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/7](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/8](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/9](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/10](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/11](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/12](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/13](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/14](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/15](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/16](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/17](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/18](#), [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/19](#) and [E/CN.9/2021/NGO/20](#).

Canada and New Zealand), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Hungary, Guatemala, Iraq, Qatar, Nicaragua, Morocco and the Philippines

7. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

Special theme for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development

8. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Special theme for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development”, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations. The Commission was informed that the draft decision did not entail programme budget implications. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2021/101).

Chapter III

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

9. The Commission convened one virtual informal meeting to hold one expert panel, followed by an interactive discussion, under item 4 of its agenda, “Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population”. The proceedings of the virtual informal meeting are reflected in annex II to the present report. The Commission had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/CN.9/2021/5](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2021 and programme performance for 2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs ([E/CN.9/2021/CRP.2](#)).

Chapter IV

Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development

10. The Commission convened one virtual informal meeting to hold a general discussion on item 5 of its agenda, “Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development”. The proceedings of the virtual informal meeting are reflected in annex II to the present report. It had before it the following document:

Note by the Secretariat on the future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development ([E/CN.9/2021/CRP.1](#)).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 April 2021, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission in 2022 ([E/CN.9/2021/L.2](#)).
12. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-fifth session (see chap. I, sect. A).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 April 2021, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Damla Fidan (Turkey), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session, as contained in document [E/CN.9/2021/L.3](#).

14. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur with its finalization in consultation with the Secretariat.

Chapter VII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

15. The Commission on Population and Development held its fifty-fourth session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 April 2021. The Commission held two meetings (1st and 2nd).

16. The Commission, pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, held on 19 April 2021, and taking into account the impact of the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the working arrangements for its fifty-fourth session and the available technological and procedural solutions for the interim period, also convened seven virtual informal meetings. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex II to the present report.

17. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April, the Chair of the Commission, Yemdaogo Eric Tiare (Burkina Faso), opened the regular session.

18. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Burkinabè Abroad of Burkina Faso, Alpha Barry; the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development; the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the 2021 Food Systems Summit made statements.

19. Also at the same meeting, a keynote address was made by the Queen Mother of Bhutan, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador and recipient of the 2020 United Nations Population Award, Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck.

B. Attendance

20. The session was attended by representatives of 36 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, non-member States and intergovernmental organizations, and representatives of United Nations system organizations and of non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants will be available in document [E/CN.9/2021/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

21. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2020/219, the Commission concluded the election of the following under silence procedure, as confirmed in a letter dated 17 July 2020 from the Chair of the Commission at its fifty-third session, with effect from 17 July 2020: Yemdaogo Eric Tiare (Burkina Faso) as Chair and Nizar Kaddouh (Lebanon) and Damla Fidan (Turkey) as Vice-Chairs. In the same letter, the Chair indicated that the election of the members of the Bureau from Eastern European States and Latin American and Caribbean States would be postponed, on the understanding that, upon nomination, the candidates would be allowed to participate in the meetings of the Bureau held in preparation for the fifty-fourth session.

22. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April 2021, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Cristina Popescu (Romania) and Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales (El Salvador) as Vice-Chairs. The Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session was thus composed as follows:

Chair:

Yemdaogo Eric Tiare (Burkina Faso)

Vice-Chairs:

Damla Fidan (Turkey)
Nizar Kaddouh (Lebanon)
Cristina Popescu (Romania)
Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales (El Salvador)

23. At the same meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair, Damla Fidan (Turkey), to serve as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda

24. At its 1st meeting, on 19 April 2021, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2021/1), which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate:
 - (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
 - (b) Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development.
4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
5. Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session.

25. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2021/L.1).

E. Documentation

26. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-fourth session is contained in annex I to the present report and available on the website of the Population Division (www.un.org/development/desa/pd/events/CPD54).

Annex I

List of documents before the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-fourth session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/description</i>
E/CN.9/2021/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.9/2021/2	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development
E/CN.9/2021/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the impact of the coronavirus disease on programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development
E/CN.9/2021/4	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2021/5	4	Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2020: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
E/CN.9/2021/CRP.2	4	Note by the Secretariat on the programme plan for 2021 and programme performance for 2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs
E/CN.9/2021/CRP.1	5	Note by the Secretariat on the future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2021/L.1	2	Organization of work of the session
E/CN.9/2021/L.2	6	Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission
E/CN.9/2021/L.3	7	Draft report of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session
E/CN.9/2021/L.4	3 (a)	Draft decision on the special theme for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development
E/CN.9/2021/L.5	3 (b)	Draft resolution on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development
E/CN.9/2021/NGO/1–20	3 (a) and 3 (b)	Statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Annex II

Proceedings of the virtual informal meetings of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development

Virtual informal meetings to hold the general discussion, as well as three panel discussions followed by interactive dialogues, under agenda item 3 and its sub-items (a) and (b)

1. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 19 April 2021, following a statement by the Chair of the Commission, Yemdaogo Eric Tiare (Burkina Faso), the expert panel and interactive dialogue were moderated by Vice-Chair and Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations, Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales, who also made a statement.
2. At the same meeting, the following panellists responded to the questions posed by the moderator: Senior Population Affairs Officer, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Cheryl Sawyer; Senior Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Lorenzo Bellù; Technical Specialist, Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Sandile Simelane; Director of School-based Programmes, World Food Programme, Carmen Burbano; and Senior Adviser, UNFPA, Michael Herrmann.
3. Also at the same meeting, the Commission commenced its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) under agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Turkey, India and Zambia.
4. At the same virtual informal meeting held on the afternoon of 19 April, statements were also made in the general discussion by the observers for Finland (on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Cabo Verde, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), the Congo (on behalf of the Group of African States), Mongolia, Peru, Kenya and South Africa.
5. At the virtual informal meeting held on the morning of 20 April 2021, the Commission held a high-level panel on the road towards the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021, which was chaired by Vice-Chair Damla Fidan (Turkey), who made a statement.
6. The high-level panel and interactive dialogue were moderated by the Director of the Center for Development Research at the University of Bonn in Germany, Joachim von Braun, who made a statement.
7. The following panellists responded to the questions posed by the moderator: the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Environment Programme, Ligia Noronha; the Chief Economist of FAO, Maximo Torero Cullen; the Director of the

Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Jyotsna Puri; the Executive Chairperson of AKADEMIYA2063, Ousmane Badiane; the Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Lawrence Haddad; and the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Thought for Food, Christine Gould.

8. Also at the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together; the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations; and the Women's Health and Education Center.

9. Following the informal virtual meeting held on the morning of 20 April, the Commission continued its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) under agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of Mexico and El Salvador, as well as by the observers for the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova and Uganda.

10. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 20 April, chaired by the Vice-Chair (Turkey), the Commission continued its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) under agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of Colombia, China, the Netherlands, Brazil, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Israel, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Belarus and Bulgaria.

11. At the same meeting, statements in the general discussion were also made by the observers for Indonesia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Algeria, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Cabo Verde, Morocco, Chile, Australia, Thailand and Pakistan.

12. At the virtual informal meeting held on the morning of 21 April 2021, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder panel on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development, which was chaired by Vice-Chair Cristina Popescu (Romania), who made a statement.

13. The multi-stakeholder panel and interactive dialogue were moderated by the Director General of the European Public Health Alliance, Milka Sokolović, who made a statement.

14. At the same meeting, the following panellists responded to the questions posed by the moderator: Associate Professor and leader of the flagship research programme Food Systems for Healthier Diets in the Division of Human Nutrition and Health, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, Inge D. Brouwer; the Head of the Multisectoral Actions in Food Systems Unit at the World Health Organization, Luz Maria De-Regil; a nutritionist at Feed the Children in Kenya and Youth Leader for Nutrition in the Civil Society Network of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, Jane Napais Lankisa; Senior Researcher at and former Director of the Institute of Nutrition at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Emorn Udomkesmalee; and Professor of Ecosystem Management in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut, Rami Zurayk.

15. Also at the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Luxembourg and Japan, as well as by the observers for the Philippines and Morocco.

16. At the same virtual informal meeting held on the morning of 21 April, statements in the interactive discussion were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women and the Anglican Consultative Council.

17. Following the virtual informal meeting held on the morning of 21 April, the Commission continued its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) under agenda

item 3 and heard statements made by the representatives of Malaysia, the United States of America and Bangladesh, as well as by the observers for the Gambia, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Canada.

18. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 21 April 2021, chaired by the Vice-Chair (El Salvador), the Commission continued its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) under agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Libya, Belgium, Turkmenistan, Argentina, Japan and Haiti.

19. At the same meeting, statements in the general discussion were also made by the observers for the United Kingdom, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Egypt, Nigeria and Malawi, as well as by the observers for the Holy See and the League of Arab States.

20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the International Federation for Family Development, Irene Menakaya School Onitsha, the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, the Center for Family and Human Rights, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, the World Youth Alliance and the ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together.

21. At the virtual informal meeting held on the morning of 22 April 2021, chaired by Vice-Chair Nizar Kaddouh (Lebanon), the Commission continued its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) under agenda item 3 and heard a statement made by a representative of the International Organization for Migration.

22. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: FEMM Foundation; the International Planned Parenthood Federation; Franciscans International; the Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research; Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc.; Commonwealth Medical Trust; the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region; the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations; the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; the Women's Health and Education Center; and Swasti.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Commission concluded its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) under agenda item 3.¹

Virtual informal meeting to hold a panel discussion, followed by an interactive dialogue, under agenda item 4

24. At the same virtual informal meeting held on the morning of 22 April 2021, the Commission held an expert panel on the programme of work in population, which was chaired by the Vice-Chair (Lebanon), who made a statement.

25. The expert panel was moderated by the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, John Wilmoth, who made a statement.

26. At the same meeting, the following panellists responded to the questions posed by the moderator: the Senior Researcher at the French Institute for Demographic Studies and co-head of its research team on the "Demography of the Global South",

¹ In accordance with the modalities agreed for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, written statements were received in the general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) under agenda item 3 from the following Commission members and observers: Romania (member of the Commission) and the Dominican Republic, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Poland, Qatar and Senegal.

Géraldine Duthé; the Deputy Director General of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research of Japan, Hayashi Reiko; the Head of the National Population Council of Mexico, Gabriela Rodríguez Ramírez; and the Chief Director of the National Population Unit of South Africa, Jacques van Zuydam.

27. Also at the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Germany and the Russian Federation, as well as by the observers for Norway and the Philippines.

28. At the same virtual informal meeting held on the morning of 22 April, a statement was also made by the representative of the following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population.

Virtual informal meeting to hold a general discussion under agenda item 5

29. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 22 April 2021, the Chair (Burkina Faso) made a statement.

30. At the same meeting, the Commission held a general discussion on the future role and organization of the Commission and heard statements by the representatives of Denmark (also on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay), Belarus, the Russian Federation and Mexico, as well as by the observer for Egypt.

