

General statement of the EU and the EU Member States
the context of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and
Development

on

- the draft decision entitled “**Special themes for the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on Population and Development**” issued as document E/CN.9/2020/L.4 under item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda;

and

- an oral decision proposed by the Chair authorizing him to prepare a Chair’s summary of the discussions on the theme of “**Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development**” in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and to include it in the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session;

The EU and its Member States extend our **thanks** to the Chair, Bureau members and the Secretariat for their stewardship of the process and their efforts in facilitating a short declaration in these difficult times of COVID-19.

We **welcome** the fact that on a number of important aspects of this year's theme "Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development in the context of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)" broad consensus could be reached in the discussions. Like on the respect, protection and promotion of **human rights**, women’s equal, full, and effective **participation** in decision-making, the urgent need to strengthen nationally appropriate **social protection systems** and the importance of enabling access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and diverse **food** for all.

We express our **disappointment** that persisting disparities hindered consensus on core issues of the CPD. We underline that a **reaffirmation** of our commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the **Programme of Action of the ICPD** and the outcomes of their review conferences and to **sexual and reproductive health and rights** (SRHR) in this context, would have been indispensable.

In the context of food security, we would have also wished to see the importance of **sustainable agriculture** for addressing **climate change** and **biodiversity loss** reflected.

We also regret that the **theme of the fifty-fifth session** of the CDP in 2022 could not be brought in line with the SDGs. Lacking the environmental dimension whereas the economic and social dimensions are explicitly mentioned, is a lost opportunity to clearly commit to the integrated approach of the SDGs in the context of the CPD.

We are looking forward to next year's Commission’s reports and **will once again constructively engage** in discussions and a positive outcome.