

**COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**Fifty-third session**

**Compilation of minutes of meetings of the Bureau<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	6 September 2019	2
2	9 October 2019	6
3	22 November 2019	9
4	30 January 2020	13
5	25 February 2020	17
6	5 March 2020	20
7	12 March 2020	23
8	8 April 2020	25
9	17 April 2020	29
10	23 April 2020	32
11	29 April 2020	35
12	14 May 2020	37
13	9 June 2020	39
14	24 June 2020	41
15	30 June 2020	43
16	6 July 2020	45

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to resolution [E/RES/2016/25](#), paragraph 11

**First Meeting of the Bureau**  
*DC2-1949, 6 September 2019, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair)

**Experts:** Mr. René Lauer and Ms. Julie Oppermann (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:** Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Frank Swiaczny, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, Ms. Hajar Alsumaydaiy (DESA/Population Division)

**Observers:** Mr. Dominic Allen, Ms. Rachel Snow, Ms. Maria Teresa Bejarano, Mr. Sandile Simelane (UNFPA)

**Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the first meeting of the Bureau.

The Bureau approved the draft agenda. The Chair noted that he and the Vice-Chair representing the Eastern European Group had been elected at the first meeting of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, held on 5 April 2019 immediately following the closure of the 52<sup>nd</sup> session. Nominations had not yet been received from the African Group, the Asia-Pacific Group, or the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The Chair and the Secretariat announced that they would continue their efforts to encourage the nomination of Vice-Chairs representing these groups, who would serve as designated members of the Bureau until their election by the Commission on the first day of the resumed session, 30 March 2020.

**1. Overview and background of the Commission on Population and Development**

After introductory remarks by the Chair, Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of the Population Division, gave an overview of the Commission's work and history. He pointed out the Commission's mandate, since 1946 when it was established, has been to provide advice and assistance on matters affecting or affected by population changes. The General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Commission constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to follow up on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In this context, the Commission also contributes to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other intergovernmental agreements in the area of population and development.

The Population Division of DESA serves as the substantive Secretariat of the Commission, while DGACM provides the Commission's Secretary, who provides Secretariat support on procedural matters. UNFPA attends Bureau meetings as an observer and assists in various ways with the preparation of the annual session. General Assembly resolution 65/234 from December 2010 had extended the original 20-year horizon of the Programme of Action indefinitely into the future.

**2. Work of the Bureau and proposed calendar**

The Chair drew Bureau members' attention to an information note prepared by the Secretariat on the theme and provisional agenda of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session. The note also included a calendar of proposed meetings and other activities for the Bureau.

The Director of the Population Division then summarized the information note. He observed that the theme

of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session was “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”. Five reports of the Secretary-General would be prepared for the session. The representative of UNFPA noted that UNFPA would propose to change the title of one report, traditionally called “Monitoring of population programmes”, because the intention was to address a range of interventions and policy options relevant to the special theme, many of which would not be considered “population programmes”.

The Director emphasized that the Bureau would make important decisions concerning the planning of the Commission’s annual session and should support the Chair in all his activities. Bureau members would support and promote consultations with their respective regional groups and facilitate the exchange of views and information. The Bureau would also decide on the selection of invited speakers and propose possible themes for future sessions. The Bureau was expected to meet 4-5 times between September 2019 and March 2020. Compiled minutes of the Bureau meetings would be distributed to regional groups within 10 working days after each meeting. Mr. Lauer suggested that the distribution of minutes and other documents should not be limited to circulation through the monthly chairs of regional groups in situations where there is no designated Bureau member for a given region. He suggested that the e-deleGATE platform might be an effective means of communicating with Commission delegates. It was decided that the Secretariat would distribute the minutes formally through the regional chairs in such cases, while also sending them to the full delegates email list used for the 52<sup>nd</sup> session and inquiring with DGACM about use of the e-deleGATE platform.

Bureau members were informed that the Population Division would convene an expert group meeting on the theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session on 16-17 September 2019 in CR-12. A briefing on the logistics of the session would be scheduled in late February or early March of 2020. One potential change from prior years’ schedule was a suggestion not to hold a briefing on the substantive reports of the Secretary-General in advance of the resumed session. Instead, the Bureau and the Secretariat might consider ways to promote a more interactive discussion of these reports during the session itself. The Bureau decided to consider this topic further at its next meeting.

***Action: Secretariat to distribute minutes of first Bureau meeting both by sharing with regional groups (Bureau members or monthly chairs) and by circulating to the delegates email list from the previous session; Population Division to contact DGACM about possibilities to utilize the e-deleGATE platform (e.g., for distribution of minutes) to facilitate the communication flow of the Commission***

### **3. Possible outcomes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session**

The Chair opened a discussion on how to ensure a successful outcome of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, including the question of whether a resolution on the special theme was required. Ms. Angelova expressed that a negotiated outcome was vital to the future of the Commission, though noting the difficulty of negotiations in Commission and other fora. She suggested that the Commission should also examine its methods of work.

Mr. Lauer asked whether a full consideration of the methods of work could be undertaken in the current session. Mr. Wilmoth noted that the last time the Commission had undertaken a review of its methods of work, this had been mandated by a decision of ECOSOC in 2015 (ECOSOC 2015/252). Based on that mandate, the Secretariat had gathered information, including through a survey sent to Member States, and had prepared a note of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/2016/8) to help guide the discussion among Member States. These preparations had helped to achieve a successful outcome: ECOSOC adopted a resolution on the Commission’s methods of work in 2016 (E/RES/2016/25).

Bureau members suggested a possible brainstorming session and asked the Secretariat to investigate options for initiating a review of the Commission’s methods of work during the 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> sessions.

In addition, the Commission would need to adopt the draft provisional agenda for its 54<sup>th</sup> session. This

document would be submitted for formal processing by DGACM (editing and translation) in early January 2020. The Chair asked the Secretariat to circulate a proposal for the draft provisional agenda of the 54<sup>th</sup> session at least one week in advance of the November Bureau meeting.

Lastly, the Commission should make a decision on the special theme of the 55<sup>th</sup> session in 2021, in order to maintain a consistent two-year planning cycle. While A/RES/72/305 had affirmed that functional commissions should select themes that aligned with the main theme of ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum, it was still unknown when ECOSOC would decide themes for 2020 and beyond. The Bureau agreed to have a further discussion of questions around the special theme of the 55<sup>th</sup> session at a future meeting.

The Bureau decided also to review the organizational aspects of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, considering ideas and elements for enhancing the substantive interest of the session that could be implemented by action of the Bureau.

***Action: Secretariat to review options for initiating a discussion on the Commission's methods of work and report to the Bureau at its next meeting (in October)***

***Action: Secretariat to circulate a proposal for the draft provisional agenda of the 54<sup>th</sup> session one week in advance of the third Bureau meeting (in November)***

***Action: Secretariat to prepare a further discussion of options around the special theme of the 55<sup>th</sup> session at a future Bureau meeting***

***Action: Secretariat to prepare recommendations on ways to enhance the substantive interest of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session that could be implemented by action of the Bureau, for discussion at its next meeting (in October)***

#### **4. Keynote speakers and expert panel**

The Chair reaffirmed the Bureau's responsibility to identify and invite keynote speakers and panellists to provide background information and expert perspectives to inform the deliberations of the Commission. Participants noted the successful experience of having an engaging, high-profile speaker address the 52<sup>nd</sup> session, which had raised interest in the previous session. The Secretariat could investigate possibilities for a high-profile speaker on the special theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session. Ms. Angelova emphasized that it would be most effective if the speaker had personal experience with the topic under discussion. Bureau members also noted the effectiveness of the high-level panel discussion on the regional reviews of ICPD that was held during the 52<sup>nd</sup> session.

The Bureau agreed to continue discussions on the format for keynote and panel sessions at its next meeting. It asked the Secretariat to suggest options for formats and to begin building a roster of speakers.

***Action: Secretariat to suggest possible formats and prepare a draft roster of potential keynote speakers, expert panellists and moderators, in consultation with UNFPA and other agency partners, for initial discussion at the Bureau's next meeting (in October)***

#### **5. NGO participation**

The Director of the Population Division reported that the Secretariat would again be hosting a webpage, with support from DESA's NGO Branch, for the purpose of pre-registering ECOSOC-accredited NGO participants. Pre-registration would open in early November 2019 and remain open until March 2020. The Secretariat would send an e-mail to the ECOSOC-accredited NGO participants who attended the 52<sup>nd</sup> session, informing them of the dates for pre-registration and about procedures for submitting written statements. In addition, the Secretariat would reach out to UN agencies working in the areas of food

security and nutrition to request contact information of relevant ECOSOC-accredited NGOs to distribute this information more widely.

The submission of written statements by accredited NGOs would be possible from early November until early December 2019. The first twenty statements received (and accepted as relevant to the work of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session) would be issued as official documents of the session, with translation into the three working languages of ECOSOC (English, French and Spanish). Additional statements could potentially be published on the Commission's webpage without translation. NGO statements would not receive formal editing by DGACM; however, professional staff of the Population Division would review the statements and apply some light editing, as appropriate.

***Action: Secretariat to open in early November 2019 an online platform for pre-registration of ECOSOC-accredited NGOs to participate in the 53<sup>rd</sup> session and for their submission of written statements; pre-registration and submission processes to be communicated both through announcements posted online and by contacting NGO participants in the 52<sup>nd</sup> session and other ECOSOC-accredited NGOs suggested by relevant UN agencies***

## **6. Any other business**

Ms. Angelova asked about the connection between the Commission on Population and Development and the ICPD+25 summit to be held in Nairobi in November. She had heard talk of possible follow-up to the Nairobi summit in future sessions of the Commission. The Chair suggested that Bureau members, the Secretariat and UNFPA should be attentive to potential implications of the Nairobi summit for the Commission's next session in 2020.

Pending further confirmation by Bureau members, it was decided tentatively to hold the next Bureau meeting during the week of 7 October 2019.

***Action: Secretariat to prepare minutes of the meeting and send them to the Chair and other Bureau members for review and approval; Bureau members to circulate the final, approved minutes to members of their respective regional groups within 10 working days after the meeting; Secretariat to send minutes of Bureau meeting to chairs of regional groups not yet represented in the Bureau and to all delegates on the email list from the 52<sup>nd</sup> session***

***Action: Once the date has been confirmed, Secretariat to take necessary steps to convene the second Bureau meeting in October 2019***

**Second Meeting of the Bureau**  
*DC2-1949, 9 October 2019, 3.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.*

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair)

**Expert:** Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:** Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, Mr. Christoph Deuster (UN DESA Population Division), Ms. Svetlana Emelina-Sarte (UN DGACM)

**Observers:** Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Maria Teresa Bejarano, Mr. Sandile Simelane (UNFPA)

**1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the second meeting of the Bureau. The Bureau approved the draft agenda.

The Chair recalled that, at its first meeting, the Bureau had requested the Secretariat to prepare a note with elements for enhancing the substantive interest of the annual session of the Commission that could be implemented by action of the Bureau. To this end, the Secretariat had prepared a set of proposals that could serve as a basis for the Bureau's consideration of agenda items 2, 3 and 4.

**2. CPD53: Opening statements**

The Director of the Population Division observed that, in previous years, opening statements had been delivered by up to four representatives of the UN system, which some perceived as excessive. He proposed that, instead, the number of speakers representing the UN system be limited to three (the Secretary-General or Deputy-Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA and the Executive Director of UNFPA).

The Bureau decided tentatively<sup>2</sup> to invite the Secretary General, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of UNFPA, the President of the General Assembly, and the President of ECOSOC to make opening statements. The Bureau recommended that the invited speakers be asked to keep their opening statements brief.

**Action:** *Secretariat to check informally the availability of five opening speakers*

**3. CPD53: Invited speakers (keynote, panels)**

The Director of the Population Division observed that the annual session normally included two keynote speakers, one on Monday and one on Tuesday, as well as one expert panel on Wednesday.

In view of the positive reactions received last year, he proposed to continue the practice of inviting a goodwill ambassador or a well-known expert or advocate to deliver a keynote address on Monday morning. He further suggested replacing the keynote on Tuesday with a high-level interactive panel featuring senior officials of UN entities with mandates and expertise around the theme of the current session. On Wednesday, the Commission could either organize an expert panel or invite a well-regarded expert as a

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<sup>2</sup> The Bureau members representing two regional groups agreed that, since three regional groups lacked representation, any decisions taken in the Bureau's second meeting would be subject to confirmation by the elected or nominated representatives of regional groups who would attend its third meeting in November. They also agreed that the practice of deciding "tentatively" would be limited to actions decided during the second Bureau meeting.

second keynote speaker.

Ms. Angelova noted that inviting ministers as panellists could increase high-level participation in the annual session. Mr. Lauer suggested that also representatives of the private sector could be considered as panellists. The Chair concurred that it would be useful for panels to include ministers who could report on national experiences and lessons learned. He indicated that it might be desirable to organize two multi-stakeholder panels, featuring a combination of UN representatives, experts and country representatives on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Bureau decided tentatively that the programme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual session should include a keynote statement by a goodwill ambassador or well-known expert or advocate on Monday as well as multi-stakeholder panels on both Tuesday and Wednesday. The size of each panel would be limited to five members, ideally involving one high-level government official, one or two representatives of UN entities, and one or two representatives of civil society, academia or the private sector. The most suitable candidate among the panel members could be selected as moderator. Based on previous experience, the Secretariat recommended creating a time and space for panel members to meet for informal exchange ahead of time to encourage a free-flowing dialogue during each panel.

***Action: Secretariat to identify, in consultation with relevant UN entities, a goodwill ambassador or well-known expert or advocate to deliver a keynote address, and to propose a roster of potential speakers for the keynote address and two multi-stakeholder panels***

#### **4. CPD53: Presentation of reports of the Secretary-General**

It was reported that the Secretariat and UNFPA were preparing five reports of the Secretary-General, as indicated on the provisional agenda of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session. The Director of the Population Division proposed moving the presentation of the report on world demographic trends, part of the documentation for agenda item 4, from Thursday to Monday (around 12.30 p.m.) to ensure that the deliberations of the Commission would be informed by evidence about the recent and historical trends in the global population. He also proposed that the three reports connected to the special theme be presented during an interactive panel on Monday at 3.00 p.m. in order to encourage dialogue and discussion. Lastly, he suggested that following presentation of the report on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population, which focuses on the work programme of the Population Division of DESA, there could be an interactive discussion involving a panel of technical experts attending the session as part of their national delegations.

The Bureau agreed tentatively with the proposals of the Secretariat for the presentation of the five reports of the Secretary-General during the Commission. The representative of DGACM concurred that there were no technical impediments to opening agenda item 4 on Monday to accommodate presentation of the report on world demographic trends.

#### **5. Options for initiating a discussion on methods of work**

The Director of the Population Division reminded the Bureau that the Commission had conducted a comprehensive review of its methods of work in 2015 and 2016, supported by a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.9/2016/8). The resulting resolution (E/RES/2016/25) had offered practical guidance on key topics, for example on the relationship between the Commission's core mandate to review the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, and its new mandate to contribute to thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). However, the 2016 ECOSOC resolution had not resolved all pertinent issues. Two of the unresolved issues had been addressed subsequently in decisions taken by ECOSOC in 2017 (on the multi-year work programme) and in 2018 (on the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources). The Director suggested that the major remaining issue was the Commission's means of reporting substantive conclusions and recommendations to ECOSOC and HLPF.

He proposed that the Chair and Bureau may wish to formulate a proposal to address this specific issue, rather than launching a comprehensive review of the Commission's methods of work.

The Bureau discussed the possibility of launching an informal dialogue within the Bureau and among Member States about the Commission's working methods, its functioning and its future. The dialogue could start in the current session and continue during the 54<sup>th</sup> session.

***Action: Bureau to take up this issue for possible action at its third meeting in November***

## **6. Any other business**

The Population Division reported that it had discussed with DGACM the potential for an expanded use of the e-deleGATE platform for communication purposes. The minutes of the Bureau's first meeting had been distributed using this platform. In addition, consistent with other functional commissions, DGACM had added a link on e-deleGATE to the webpage for the Commission maintained by the Population Division.

The Chair noted that the absence of representation from the African Group, the Asia-Pacific Group and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States severely hampered the proper functioning of the Bureau. The Chair announced that he would contact the chairs of the three regional groups to encourage them to nominate a representative to serve on the Bureau. He would also inform them that at its next meeting in November, the Bureau would need to finalize a number of key decisions about the organization of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, and that he hoped that the Bureau's preparations for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session would benefit from the contribution of representatives from all five regional groups.

### ***Actions:***

- ***Director of the Population Division to prepare a letter to the chairs of the three regional groups currently not represented in the Bureau, reminding them of the need to nominate a representative***
- ***Chair to contact the chairs of the three regional groups to encourage nomination of representatives***
- ***Secretariat to prepare minutes of the meeting and circulate them among Bureau members for review and approval; final, approved minutes to be shared by Bureau members with their respective regional groups no more than 10 working days after the meeting; using e-deleGATE platform, Secretariat to send minutes to chairs of regional groups not represented in the meeting and to all delegates on a list used during the informal consultations of the previous session***
- ***Secretariat to prepare the third meeting of the Bureau, to be held in November 2019***



**Third Meeting of the Bureau**  
*DC2-1949, 22 November 2019, 3.00 – 5.00 p.m.*

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso (Vice-Chair designate)

**Expert:** Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:** Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, Mr. Guangyu Zhang (UN DESA / Population Division)

**Observers:** Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Ms. Rachel Snow, Ms. Soohyun Kim (UNFPA)

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the third meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants.

In particular, the Chair welcomed Ambassador Mariame Fofana, Deputy Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations, as the Vice-Chair representing the African Group. He expressed his appreciation to the monthly Chair of the African Group for having taken action to fill the vacancy in the Bureau.

Ambassador Fofana expressed her gratitude to the Chair for welcoming her in the Bureau.

The Chair advised the members of the Bureau that the General Assembly had approved the theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF for 2020, which will be “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

The Chair indicated that the Commission should be able to contribute to this theme because of its broad nature. He suggested that the Bureau may wish to reflect on how the 53<sup>rd</sup> session could best contribute to this theme and invited the Secretariat and UNFPA to make concrete suggestions in the reports of the Secretary-General that they are preparing.

The Bureau approved the draft agenda.

***Actions:***

- ***Bureau members to reflect on how the 53<sup>rd</sup> session could best contribute to the 2020 theme of ECOSOC / HLPF***
- ***Secretariat and UNFPA to incorporate concrete suggestions in the reports of the Secretary-General on linkages between the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the CPD and the annual theme of ECOSOC and HLPF for 2020***

**2. Organization of work**

The Chair invited Bureau members to comment on the draft organization of work for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, which had been prepared by the Secretariat. The proposed format had been chosen to make the session more engaging than in previous years, in particular by creating multiple opportunities for dialogue and interaction and by strengthening the substantive content.

The Secretariat highlighted the main changes in the proposed organization of work as compared to previous

years. In particular, there would be four panels, including two multi-stakeholder panels and two expert panels.

The Bureau decided that the first expert panel, to be held on Monday afternoon, would focus on the two reports on the special theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session. The third report, on the flow of financial resources, would be briefly presented immediately following the expert panel. The second expert panel, on programme implementation and the future programme of work by the Secretariat in the field of population, would take place on Thursday morning and involve experts from national delegations.

Two multi-stakeholder panels, taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday, would include representatives of UN entities, Member States, academia, civil society and the private sector. The panel on Tuesday morning would focus on population, food security and sustainable development, while the panel on Wednesday afternoon would address population, nutrition and sustainable development.

The Bureau took note of a proposal by UNFPA to change the description of one of the reports of the Secretary-General would be as follows: “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 and their contribution to population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”.

The Bureau agreed to suspend informal consultations on draft proposals during the panels on Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon.

**Action:**

- *Secretariat to finalize the organization of work of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session*

**3. Potential keynote speakers, expert panellists and moderators: Draft roster**

The Secretariat distributed a draft roster of potential keynote speakers, expert panellists and moderators, which had been prepared in consultation with relevant UN entities. While identifying speakers with expertise across the full range of topics covered by the theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, the list provided a balanced representation from gender and regional perspectives.

The Chair invited Bureau members to comment on the proposed roster of invited speakers.

The Bureau agreed that each panel would include no more than five people, including the moderator, if any, and requested the Secretariat to consider adding additional representatives of the private sector to the roster.

UNFPA announced that it would review the roster and would offer suggestions of additional candidates, if any, by Monday 25 November.

Bureau members also discussed possible candidates for a keynote address on Monday morning.

**Actions:**

- *UNFPA to provide additional candidates for invited speakers by 25 November*
- *Secretariat to circulate updated roster of speakers to the Bureau by 26 November*
- *Secretariat to share roster with regional groups, requesting feedback (non-objection) by 5 Dec.*
- *Secretariat to circulate sketch of multi-stakeholder panels for the Bureau’s review by 26 Nov.*
- *Bureau to provide feedback on the sketch of two panels by 5 December*
- *Secretariat to contact potential speakers starting in the first half of December*

**4. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session**

The Secretariat introduced the draft provisional agenda for the 54<sup>th</sup> session. As with the draft organization

of work, the Bureau took note of a proposal by UNFPA to change the title of one of the reports to “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 and their contribution to population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”.

**Action:**

- *Secretariat to finalize the draft provisional agenda of the 54<sup>th</sup> session*

## **5. Participation of ECOSOC-accredited NGOs**

The Secretariat advised that the submission of written statements by ECOSOC-accredited NGOs had been opened on 1 November and that pre-registration for participation in the 53<sup>rd</sup> session would begin in January 2020.

A Bureau member suggested exploring the possibility of enhancing the role of civil society representatives during the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, including through an interactive briefing or other event that could be convened by the Bureau before the start of the resumed session.

**Actions:**

- *Secretariat to continue its preparations for pre-registration of NGO representatives and to complete the processing of written statements from civil society organizations*
- *At the next Bureau meeting, Secretariat to present options for encouraging greater engagement by civil society in the 53<sup>rd</sup> session*

## **6. Options for initiating a discussion on methods of work**

The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on options to avoid the repetition of stalemates in adopting resolutions on the annual theme. Member States could vote on individual paragraphs and make reservations, while maintaining consensus on the whole document. Further, it would be useful to reach a common understanding about the expected rules of engagement during informal consultations.

Another option was to present, in addition to a negotiated outcome on the annual theme, a summary by the Chair covering selected topics. The Secretariat observed that such a summary exists already in practice and has been used in recent years to highlight aspects of the Commission’s work that were relevant to thematic discussions around the SDGs taking place in the HLPF.

Members of the Bureau discussed the advantages and disadvantages of initiating a reflection on the future functioning of the Commission in view of the current political climate.

The Chair advised that he would engage with selected Member States in the near future to promote a common understanding on the outcome of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session. He also requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of elements for possible inclusion in the zero draft of a resolution on the special theme.

**Actions:**

- *Secretariat to prepare a list of elements for possible inclusion in the zero draft of a resolution on the special theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, for circulation among Bureau members by no later than 15 December*
- *Bureau/Secretariat to continue reflecting on options for initiating a discussion on the*

*Commission's methods of work and on its future role*

**7. Any other business**

The Chair reported that he had invited GRULAC to send an observer to future meetings of the Bureau, as it seemed unlikely that the Group would reach consensus on a candidate for Vice-Chair.

The Chair announced that he would continue to communicate with the Asia-Pacific Group to request the nomination of a Vice-Chair from that region.

The Chair expressed his intention to hold the next meeting of the Bureau in late January or early February of 2020.

**Action:**

- *Secretariat to send a letter to the Chair of Asia-Pacific Group for the month of December (Yemen) to request the nomination of a Vice-Chair from that region*

**Fourth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*DC2-1949, 30 January 2020, 3.15 – 7.00 p.m.*

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. Satoshi Ezoe (Japan), Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:** Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer, Ms. Lina Bassarsky (UN DESA), Ms. Jori Joergensen (DGACM)

**Observers:** Mr. Ramiz Alakbarov, Ms. Anna Berkovich, Ms. Soohyun Kim (UNFPA)

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the fourth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. He expressed his satisfaction with having a full Bureau in place, as the Bureau is entering into the last phase of preparations for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission. The agenda of the meeting was approved with no changes.

**2. Update on the status of preparations for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session**

The Chair informed the participants that the note verbale from the Secretary-General informing Member States about the upcoming session had been distributed.

The opening meeting of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session would likely feature the Secretary-General (in person or by video message), DESA USG Mr. Liu Zhenmin, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem, and the Director-General of FAO as keynote speaker (tbc).

The Chair informed the Bureau that he had received an expression of interest of His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho, FAO's Special Ambassador for Nutrition, to participate in the session. Possibly, a special address by the King could be scheduled on Tuesday, 31 March at 3 p.m.

At the request of the Chair, the Secretariat provided an update of the status of invitations of speakers and panellists and shared again the roster of potential speakers for the two multistakeholder panels. One Bureau member inquired about the possibility of inviting a representative of the regional economic commissions (RECs) to brief the Commission on the results of the regional voluntary reviews of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation the special theme of the Commission.

Given the late stage of the preparations for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, the Bureau proposed that the participation of the RECs be considered for the 54<sup>th</sup> session in 2021. The special theme for next year (“Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”) was deemed to have particular relevance for the regional reviews.

**Action:**

- **Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, to finalize list of keynote speakers, expert panelists**

*and moderators*

### **3. Reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session**

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the timely finalization of the reports of the Secretary-General. The advance unedited versions of the reports were available online (English only).<sup>3</sup> Edited versions in all six languages will become available in the next few weeks. The two reports focusing on the special theme, especially their conclusions and recommendations, would inform the zero-draft of the resolution.

The Chair expressed his intention to hold a meeting with the co-facilitators and the New York-based representatives of the expert agencies, funds and programmes that had contributed expertise to the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General that will inform and guide the discussions at the upcoming session.

The Population Division briefly introduced the report of the Secretary-General on “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”. UNFPA introduced the Secretary-General’s report on “Programmes and interventions for the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and their contribution to population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development”.

***Action: Secretariat to organize a meeting with relevant UN entities, preferably in the afternoon of 10 February***

### **4. Pre-session consultation with civil society**

The Bureau agreed on organizing a briefing for civil society on Friday morning, 27 March, just before the opening of the resumed 53<sup>rd</sup> session on Monday, 30 March. Such a briefing would be consistent with the most recent resolution on the Commission’s methods of work, which calls for civil society to be given the opportunity to actively participate in the work of the Commission. In terms of its organization, the meeting could start with brief opening remarks made by the Chair, followed by a presentation from the Secretariat and comments and questions from the attendees.

***Action: Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements (informing civil society, booking a room, etc.) for the briefing with civil society organizations on Friday morning, 27 March***

### **5. Resolution on the special theme**

#### *a) Zero-draft*

It was suggested that the scope of the zero-draft of the resolution be limited to four key thematic areas: a) sustainability, b) population movements, c) undernutrition and d) overweight and obesity. In this way, the resolution would focus on issues of food security, nutrition and sustainable development that have a close link to major population issues addressed in the ICPD Programme of Action or the 2030 Agenda.

It was decided that elements for the zero draft would be circulated to the regional groups, together with an invitation for regional consultations with the Chair, scheduled for the third week of February. The respective Vice-Chair would accompany the Chair in each of the five meetings with regional groups.

***Action:***

- ***Secretariat to prepare an invitation from the Chair for consultations with regional groups. The invitation letter should include a set of elements to be considered for the zero-draft of a***

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2020/index.asp>

***resolution on the special theme of the session, taking into account the recommendations of the SG's reports and any feedback received.***

- ***Secretariat to make all necessary arrangements for consultations of the Chair with regional groups during the week of 17 to 21 February***

*b) Informal consultations*

The informal consultations on a draft resolution on the special theme would start in the week prior to the resumed session, that is, from 23 to 27 March, with as many meetings as necessary to complete the first reading. Consultations on the resolution and on two decisions (special theme of the 55<sup>th</sup> session and draft provisional agenda for the 54<sup>th</sup> session) would resume in the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session, as reflected in the draft organization of work (E/CN.9/2020/L.1).

It was agreed that the Chair would introduce the zero-draft of the resolution on Monday, 2 March at 11.30 a.m. in Conference Room 2, immediately following a briefing by the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The presentation of the zero-draft would be combined with a briefing on organizational aspects of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session.

***Action: Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the preparation of the informal consultations (Journal announcement, etc.)***

*c) Timeline, process and strategy*

The Bureau proposed the following timeline for the preparation of the zero-draft of the resolution on the special theme:

10-14 February	Elements for the zero draft to be shared with Member States
17-21 February	Consultations with regional groups on elements for the zero draft
2 March	Presentation and distribution of the zero draft
23-27 March	First reading of the zero draft
30 March-3 April	Informal consultations on draft proposals <sup>4</sup>

The representative of DGACM provided information about two deadlines. First, if draft proposal are submitted by Tuesday afternoon, 31 March, the Secretariat will be able to issue the edited text in six official languages prior to adoption on Friday afternoon, 3 April. In case it will not be possible to meet this deadline, the text of the resolution will be available in English only during the session. Second, in order to obtain budgetary clearance, the text of the resolution should be submitted at least 48 hours before its scheduled adoption, that is, by Wednesday, 1 April. Should the final text not be available by that time, a preliminary version of the text will be shared with the budget division.

## **6. Theme for the 55<sup>th</sup> session**

During the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, it is anticipated that the Commission will decide on the special theme for its 55<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> For a detailed schedule of the informal consultations, see the draft organization of work, available here: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2020/index.asp>

session in 2022.

The Secretariat presented a short note proposing three options for the special theme of the 55<sup>th</sup> session.

During the discussion that followed, arguments in favour of one theme or another were put forward. Considerations included (a) thematic balance in view of the special themes addressed by the Commission in recent years, (b) relevance in the today's world, (c) alignment of the theme of the Commission with the work of ECOSOC and HLPF, and (d) chances of reaching consensus around a negotiated resolution on a given theme.

Following some discussion, it was decided that the members of the Bureau would share the three options with their respective regional groups.

***Action: Members of the Bureau to distribute the paper with the three options to their respective regional groups***

## **7. Options for initiating a discussion on methods of work: Next steps**

During an earlier meeting, the Bureau had agreed to: (a) start a reflection during the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on how to revitalize the Commission, and (b) continue that conversation during the 54<sup>th</sup> session.

The Bureau considered various formats for raising this issue during the 53<sup>rd</sup> session.

The Bureau considered the possibility of adding an item on revitalizing the Commission to the provisional agenda for the 54<sup>th</sup> session. To justify addition of this agenda item, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a short paper around the following themes: (a) the current and future role of the Commission, including exploring emerging themes relevant to the work of the Commission, (b) revitalization of the Commission, and (c) impact on the methods of work. The Bureau agreed that the title of the agenda item could refer to “revitalization of the Commission” or “discussions on the future role of the Commission”. The Chair announced that he might convene at least one informal meeting on this topic with Member States ahead of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session.

***Action: Secretariat to (a) prepare a brief note on revitalizing the Commission, and (b) organize, if so requested by the Chair, an informal meeting with Member States in February***

## **8. Any other business**

The distribution of tasks among Bureau members was determined as follows. Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) and Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) will take on the role as co-facilitators. Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) will serve as rapporteur.

The Secretariat suggested inviting Mr. Abhijit Banerjee and Ms. Esther Duflo, professors at MIT and a married couple who jointly won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2019, to participate in next year's session of the Commission as keynote speakers, noting that it may be critical to extend such an invitation far in advance of the 54<sup>th</sup> session in April 2021.

***Action: Current Chair (53<sup>rd</sup> session) to suggest to the future Chair (54<sup>th</sup> session) the possibility of inviting Mr. Abhijit Banerjee and Ms. Esther Duflo to deliver a keynote address during the next session***



**Fifth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*DC2-1949, 25 February 2020, 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon*

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. Satoshi Ezoe (Japan), Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Anna Berkovich

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the fifth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. He explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on the zero draft of the resolution on the special theme in light of the feedback received from each of the five regional groups during the informal consultations he had convened during the previous week.

The Chair proposed to slightly rearrange the agenda items. With those changes, the agenda was adopted.

**2. Update on the status of preparations**

At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) agreed to moderate the technical panels discussing the reports of the Secretary-General on the special theme (30 March, 3-4 pm) and the work programme of the Population Division (2 April, 10-11.30 am).

The Secretariat had received confirmations from DESA USG Liu Zhenmin, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem and IFAD President Gilbert F. Houngbo to speak during the opening session on Monday morning. The Secretariat also reported on the progress made in inviting panellists for the two technical and the two multi-stakeholder panels. Most invited speakers had confirmed their participation. For some speaking slots, alternative speakers had been approached, in consultation with the Chair.

The Secretariat also provided an update on the status of side-events.

**Action:** *Secretariat to continue to follow up on the arrangements for the fifty-third session*

**3. Theme for the fifty-fifth session**

The Chair recalled that at the fourth meeting, the Bureau had discussed three options for the special theme for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission, based on a hand-out prepared by the Secretariat. The three proposals were: a) education, population and sustainable development; b) population, environment and sustainable development, and c) healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages.

The Chair invited the members of the Bureau to provide feedback on the proposed themes from the

members of their respective regional groups.

- The Asia-Pacific Group preferred the themes of Healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages (1<sup>st</sup>) and Education, population and sustainable development (2<sup>nd</sup>).
- The Eastern European Group preferred the theme of Education, population and sustainable development.
- GRULAC preferred the themes of Population, environment and sustainable development (1<sup>st</sup>) and Education, population and sustainable development (2<sup>nd</sup>).
- WEOG also preferred the themes of Population, environment and sustainable development (1<sup>st</sup>) and Education, population and sustainable development (2<sup>nd</sup>).

Later during the week, the Vice-Chair for the Africa Group informed the Bureau that the Group's preferences for the special theme of the fifty-fifth session were Population, environment and sustainable development (1<sup>st</sup>) and Education, population and sustainable development (2<sup>nd</sup>).

In providing feedback, one Member State had highlighted the need for aligning future themes of the Commission with those of ECOSOC. The Chair indicated that such alignment, while desirable, was not possible for the fifty-fifth session, given that ECOSOC had not yet decided its theme for 2022.

*Action: Chair to put forward a draft decision for the special theme of the fifty-fifty session*

#### **4. Future role of the Commission**

The Chair recalled that during earlier meetings, the Bureau had discussed the need for an informal reflection among Member States on the Commission's future role, also within the context of the revitalisation of the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

The Chair proposed to convene an informal meeting with Member States during the week prior to the resumed session, preferably on Wednesday morning, 25 March. In his letter of invitation, he would include a few open-ended questions to kickstart the conversation.

Given the strong interest in the work of the Commission, expressed during the regional consultations, he hoped that the informal meeting would give a positive impetus to the annual session, to be held during the following week.

*Action: Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the informal meeting with Member States on the future role of the Commission, preferably to be held on Wednesday, 27 March*

#### **5. Zero draft of the resolution**

The Chair observed that he had been encouraged by the large turnout during the regional consultations he had convened in the previous week, which were attended by over 100 Member States. Many delegates had expressed a desire for a negotiated outcome on the special theme of the Commission's annual session, in line with existing practice.

He then summarized the main elements Member States had provided during the regional consultations to be included in the resolution.

The Bureau members were invited to provide their perspectives on the feedback received from the members of their respective regional groups during the consultations.

The Chair thanked all the Vice-Chairs for attending the regional consultations with their respective Groups, noting that both the feedback from the regional consultations and the perspectives of Vice-Chairs had been

very helpful in preparing the zero draft. He also asked the Bureau members to provide any written feedback by Wednesday 26 February close-of-business.

*Action:*

- *Bureau members to provide written inputs for the zero draft by Wednesday, 26 February close-of-business*

**6. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

**Sixth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*DC2-1949, Thursday 5 March 2020, 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon*

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. Levi Yameogo (Burkina Faso), Mr. Satoshi Ezoe (Japan), Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma (Secretary of the Commission)

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Rachel Snow, Ms. Anna Berkovich

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the sixth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. He explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to agree on a proposal for adjusting the organization of the upcoming session in light of the current concerns regarding coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Also, the Bureau still needed to take a decision on the proposed theme of the fifty-fifth session.

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Organization of the fifty-third session in light of COVID-19**

The Chair informed the Bureau that he had rescheduled the briefing for Member States from Monday 2 March to Friday 6 March. The proposals of the Bureau discussed in today's meeting would be presented at the rescheduled briefing of Member States the following day. He invited all Bureau members to attend the event.

The Chair reported on his meeting with the President of ECOSOC the previous day, in which the Chair had called for a coherent approach across the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC in response to COVID-19. Although further guidance was expected from the Presidents of the GA and ECOSOC, as well as from the Secretariat, there was a need for the Commission to move ahead with planning its upcoming session. Further adjustments would be made as circumstances continued to evolve.

The Chair indicated that cancelling the session was not a desirable option given that the Commission needed to conduct some essential business. Postponing the session was also problematic, given the very full schedule of meetings in the coming months and the need to contribute to the substantive preparations for the meetings of ECOSOC in July 2020, including for the HLPF held under the auspices of ECOSOC.

The Chair proposed to scale down the session, which would be shortened to become a two-day event on 30 and 31 March. He also suggested that participation by delegates from capitals was to be strongly discouraged and proposed the cancellation of all side events. Further, any invited speakers and panellists not based in New York would be invited to participate via videolink. The core of the general debate would consist of panel discussions, followed by an interactive debate. For the general debate, there would be no list of speakers. However, countries would be encouraged to submit written statements, which would be posted online and used to inform the Commission's contribution to the work of ECOSOC, including for the

HLPF.

A shortened session would require that all draft proposals be negotiated ahead of time. The Chair suggested that informal consultations begin as early as Friday 13 March and end no later than Friday 27 March. Action on draft proposals would be scheduled during the morning of the first day of the resumed session, Monday 30 March.

During the discussion, all Bureau members supported the Chair's proposals to scale down and shorten the upcoming session rather than to postpone or cancel it. Given that travel restrictions imposed by the host country (and by other countries) would lead to an uneven representation, Bureau members concurred that participation by delegates from capitals should be strongly discouraged. The Bureau expressed support for the Chair's efforts to promote a consistent approach across the ECOSOC system. Given that the Commission on the Status of Women had opted for a shortened, scaled-down session based on advice from the Secretary-General, Bureau members considered that this would also be an appropriate approach for the CPD.

The Chair observed that further adjustments to the organization of the upcoming session might be necessary in light of evolving circumstances. Should the Commission be forced to postpone the session, a two-day event would be easier to reschedule than a full-fledged five-day session.

The Secretary of the Commission informed the Bureau that an informal meeting on COVID-19 would be organized jointly by the Presidents of the General Assembly and ECOSOC on the following Tuesday, 10 March. She also reminded the Bureau that the Secretariat required 48 hours to edit and translate any draft proposals and to review the draft resolution on the special theme for programme budget implications. If necessary, an advanced draft of the resolution could be shared with the Secretariat to facilitate such review.

The Chair indicated that he planned to make a few remarks about the zero draft of the resolution on the special theme at the briefing taking place the next day. The text would be distributed later in the day, giving capitals one week to review the zero draft before the start of the informal consultations.

The Chair also proposed that the anticipated informal brainstorming on the future role of Commission be scheduled on Friday 13 March, immediately following the first round of informal consultations. A few open-ended questions would be included in the Chair's next letter to Member States. The Chair requested the Secretariat to prepare a short note on the exchange of views at the brainstorming session.

In this context, the Secretary advised that, procedurally, the Commission could take a decision during the current session to put the issue of the future role of the Commission on the provisional agenda of its next session (E/CN.9/2020/L.2). This could be done through an oral amendment introduced while approving the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session or through a written decision agreed in advance. The Commission would have the option of considering this topic either under item 2, Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters, or by including an additional item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session. Following the decision by the current Commission, the issue would be reflected in the draft organization of work for the fifty-fourth session as well as in the agenda included in the report of the Commission.

Regarding the role of civil society in the context of a shortened and scaled-down session, the Chair suggested to await further guidance from the President of ECOSOC and the Secretary-General.

The Chair requested the Secretariat to amend the draft organization of work to reflect the proposed changes and to post the revised document on the Commission's website on Wednesday 11 March. He also requested the preparation of an advisory message outlining the main elements of the Bureau's proposal, which would

be posted online following the briefing of Member States that would taking place on Friday 6 March.

***Action: Secretariat to (1) amend the draft organization of work, (2) post an advisory message on the Commission's website, (3) inform invited speakers, panellists, UN system entities and NGO representatives, and (4) make any other necessary adjustments to the organization of the upcoming session in line with the Bureau's proposal for a scaled-down and shortened session***

### **3. Theme for the fifty-fifth session**

The Chair recalled that at the Bureau's fifth meeting, Bureau members had reported back on the preferences of their respective regional groups for the special theme of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2022. The three options provided for consideration included: (a) Education, population and sustainable development, (b) Population, environment and sustainable development, and (c) Healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages. Given that three of the five regional groups had expressed a preference for option (b), the Chair announced his intention to put forward this theme for consideration by the Commission. He would distribute a draft decision to that effect the following day.

***Action: Chair to circulate a draft decision on the special theme of the fifty-fifth session***

### **4. Any other business**

The Secretary of the Commission announced that DGACM would send letters to regional groups requesting nominations for the Bureau of the fifty-fourth session. She suggested that current Bureau members should also communicate with their groups about the nomination process. The Chair recalled that the Chair of the next session would be from the African group, according to the practice of geographic rotation.<sup>5</sup>

As there was no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

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<sup>5</sup> ECOSOC decision 2005/2

**Seventh Meeting of the Bureau**  
*DC2-1949, Thursday 12 March 2020, 2.00 – 3.30 p.m.*

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Rachel Snow, Ms. Anna Berkovich

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the seventh meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. He explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the status of preparations of the upcoming session in light of the current concerns regarding coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Second, the Chair wanted to discuss the planned brainstorming on the future role of the CPD.

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Organisation of the 53rd session in light of COVID-19**

*(a) Plenary session*

The Chair observed that he was very pleased with the widespread support for the Bureau's plans to shorten and scale down the upcoming session during the briefing of Member States held on 6 March. On 9 March, the Chair had written to the President of ECOSOC, informing her about the Bureau's "10-point plan" that he had presented at the briefing of Member States.

On 11 March, the Bureau of ECOSOC had reviewed the status of preparations of meetings and events under its auspices in light of COVID-19. During the meeting, the general approach the Bureau of CPD was taking was well received. Formal approval by ECOSOC was needed in order to reduce the number of days of the CPD.

At the request of the Chair, the Secretariat presented two scenarios for the organization of work of a shortened and scaled-down plenary session. One scenario described a two-day session, while the other scenario described a one-day session.

Two regional groups expressed preference to further shorten the session to a one-day meeting. There were also calls for postponing the session. Bureau members also exchanged views on the elements to be retained in each of the two scenarios.

*(b) Informal consultations*

The Chair observed that the working methods for the informal consultations needed to be adjusted in light

of COVID-19. In particular, the working group on informal consultations should consider booking larger rooms, meeting with fewer delegates, convening meetings less frequently, and using online platforms.

Several regional groups supported exploring the feasibility of conducting negotiations online.

***Action: Secretariat to prepare a revised draft organization of work for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session once the Bureau has made a final decision on the scenario to be retained and to explore the feasibility of using online platforms for informal consultations***

### **3. Informal brainstorming on future role of the CPD**

The Chair noted that the Commission needed to consider revising the provisional agenda for the 54th session in order to accommodate a discussion on the future role of the CPD next year. Such decision should be agreed in advance and could be taken either orally by the Commission when approving its provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session or through a separate written decision. The Commission would have the option of considering this topic either under item 2, Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters, or by including an additional item on the revitalization of its work in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session.

The Chair suggested cancelling the proposed informal brainstorming session on the future role of the CPD, scheduled to be held the next day, in view of the need to limit gatherings to the absolute minimum. The Bureau agreed to consult further on the best way forward.

***Action: Secretariat to cancel the planned informal brainstorming on the future role of the CPD, which was scheduled to take place the next day***

### **4. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.



**Eighth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*Wednesday, 8 April 2020, 3.00 – 5.00 p.m.*  
(By video conference)

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Rachel Snow, Ms. Anna Berkovich

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the eighth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the organization of the postponed and shortened fifty-third session. The Chair proposed the following agenda items: (1) recent ECOSOC decisions, (2) options for the current session, (3) feasibility of online consultations, and (4) discussions on the future role of the CPD.

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Recent ECOSOC decisions**

The Chair indicated that, on 26 March, the ECOSOC President had proposed (a) postponing the closing meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development and the United Nations Forum on Forests, (b) holding short meetings of these three bodies in order to adopt procedural decisions and other important proposals, and (c) organizing these meetings back-to-back in order to streamline the calendar of meetings and optimize the use of conference services.

On 1 April, the President of ECOSOC had circulated a draft decision enabling ECOSOC to adopt decisions under a silence procedure. This decision was circulated following a similar agreement reached by the General Assembly (decision 74/544). The ECOSOC decision (decision 2020/205), adopted by silence procedure on 3 April, authorizes the ECOSOC President to circulate, after consultation with the Bureau, draft decisions of the Council to all members of the Council, with copy to all other Member States for their information, under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours. This decision shall be in effect until the end of May 2020, unless extended.

On 8 April, the President of ECOSOC circulated a draft resolution on new working methods in light of the COVID-19 pandemic which called for holding short procedural meetings within the 2020 session of the Council of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development and the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to adopt procedural and other decisions. The draft resolution also encourages Member States to make use of virtual platforms to conduct preparatory meetings and

informal consultations.

The Secretary of the Commission observed that:

- the GA and ECOSOC decisions extended the application of the practice of a silence procedure. In the past, it was understood that the silence procedure was limited to obtaining an informal, *ad referendum* agreement on a draft proposal by the members of an intergovernmental body, which would subsequently be adopted at a formal meeting of that body. Under the current circumstances where it is not possible to hold a formal meeting, the provisions of GA decision 74/544 and ECOSOC decision 2020/205 allow draft proposals to be considered adopted once they pass the silence procedure successfully. Draft proposals thus adopted would subsequently be taken note of by the GA and the ECOSOC at their next possible formal meeting.
- details of the application of the new ECOSOC procedure were contained in the document on a step-by-step process for consideration of draft decisions/resolutions in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020, circulated by the President of ECOSOC on 7 April 2020.
- the GA and ECOSOC decisions on silence procedure only applied to these parent bodies and that separate action would be required to extend the same procedure to their subsidiary bodies, if necessary.
- the short in-person procedural meeting of the Commission, to be held around mid-June if possible, did not preclude taking action on substantive resolutions.

### **3. Options for the current session**

The Chair recalled that, on earlier occasions, the Bureau had discussed various options with regard to the organization of the postponed fifty-third session.

One option was a shortened session of one day or less to conduct all necessary business, including adopting all scheduled procedural decisions and a resolution on the annual theme, closing the fifty-third session, opening the fifty-fourth session, and electing a new Bureau.

A second option was to hold a shortened session limited to taking necessary procedural actions, including those listed above under the first option, except for adopting the resolution. In case the Commission would not adopt a resolution on the theme at its fifty-third session, the Chair indicated that he would prefer postponing consideration of the theme to the next session given the substantial investment of time and effort that had been made already.

A third option, postponing the fifty-third session to 2021, had major procedural drawbacks and would no longer be relevant in light of the draft resolution being circulated by the ECOSOC President, which called for holding the fifty-third session during the current ECOSOC session.

The Chair observed that the Bureau needed to make a decision on the organization of the postponed fifty-third session in the next few weeks and suggested that the members of the Bureau consult with their respective regional groups on the matter as soon as possible.

Bureau members exchanged views on various aspects of the postponed fifty-third session, in particular (a) revising the zero draft of the resolution in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, (b) holding online informal consultations, possibly in combination with some in-person meetings, (c) the potential implications of transferring the current theme to the next session, including with regard to the current zero draft of the resolution and the reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the current session.

The Secretary of Commission confirmed that, procedurally, the Chair was able to revise the zero draft that

had already been shared with Member States last month, as it remained an informal draft.

The Chair requested the Secretariat to contact the relevant UN system entities in order to assess the potential implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on population, food security and nutrition and development.

***Action: Members of the Bureau to consult their groups on the following question.***

***Should the shortened meeting of the fifty-third session of the Commission, to be held possibly in mid-June 2020, include the consideration of a draft resolution on the special theme or should it be limited to taking necessary procedural action?***

**Note:**

***Consideration of a draft resolution on the special theme during the meeting would imply:***

- a) updating the draft resolution on the special theme with language on COVID-19, and***
- b) holding virtual (online) informal consultations.***

#### **4. feasibility of online consultations**

The Chair observed that the feasibility of conducting informal consultations online is a critical consideration in the decision about whether to move forward with a draft resolution on the special theme during the current session as Member States will most likely be unable to meet in person until at least the end of May. He also observed that, currently, other intergovernmental fora are already experimenting with the use of virtual platforms for online consultations.

The Secretariat reported on a meeting with the Office of Information and Communication Technology to support informal consultations through a video conferencing platform (UN VTC).

The Secretariat also reported that two virtual consultations had successfully been held on the draft 2020 ECOSOC forum on financing for development (FfD) follow-up outcome document using MS Teams. Negotiations on the FfD outcome document had combined virtual consultations and email exchanges. In view of the limited time available, the virtual negotiations were intended for Member States to present succinctly their broad proposals and positions, not for line-by-line negotiations. In order to allow all delegations to present their proposals, Member States had been requested to direct their questions or requests for clarifications by email. The email exchange before and after the virtual consultations had provided an opportunity to share text proposals and justifications. The Secretariat had distributed a two-page user guide in order to assist delegates in the use of MS Teams.

Bureau members who had participated in the two online consultations on the FfD outcome document confirmed the technical feasibility of online consultations using MS Teams.

***Action: Secretariat to continue to collect information and experiences concerning the use of online platforms for informal consultations.***

#### **5. Future role of the CPD**

The Chair recalled that at a previous meeting, the Secretariat had been requested to prepare a note on the future role of the Commission, with the support of a small drafting group, which included one Bureau member and a representative of UNFPA. The note had been shared with members of the Bureau ahead of the meeting. The Chair commended the Secretariat for the preparation of the paper, indicating that he found it informative and practical.

Bureau members discussed the content of the paper as well as the way forward for a discussion on the

future role of the Commission.

The Secretariat was requested to update the paper in light of the discussion and to circulate a new version ahead of the next meeting of the Bureau.

*Action: Secretariat to update the paper on the future role of the CPD and to circulate a new version ahead of the next meeting of the Bureau.*

**6. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

**Ninth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*Friday, 17 April 2020, 3.00 – 5.00 p.m.*  
(Via MS Teams)

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Anna Berkovich

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the ninth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. He announced that, for the remainder of the current session, virtual meetings of the Bureau would be held using MS Teams.

The following draft agenda was adopted: (1) Business continuity and meeting management, (2) Actions to be taken by CPD53: feedback from regional groups, (3) Future role of the CPD, and (4) Any other business.

**2. Business continuity and meeting management**

The Chair informed the Bureau that the silence procedure for ECOSOC draft resolution E/2020/L.6 on “Revised working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies” was concluded without objections. Accordingly, the resolution (ECOSOC 2020/3) was already in effect.

This resolution was relevant to the Commission in two main ways. First, it encouraged Member States to make use of virtual platforms, where appropriate, to conduct preparatory meetings and informal consultations. Second, it decided that the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission would be held in the form of a short, procedural meeting at a later date during the 2020 session of the Council, in order to adopt procedural and other decisions.

The Chair added that, for the moment, it was still assumed that this would be an in-person meeting taking place around mid-June. He underlined that such a meeting would not preclude taking action on a draft resolution on the annual theme.

On 9 April, the ECOSOC President had sent a letter on “Elections to subsidiary bodies through silence procedure” for ten ECOSOC subsidiary and related bodies, including the CPD. The letter announced that the President would circulate proposals detailing the candidatures and terms for the election of members to each subsidiary body, whenever the number of candidatures was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled for all regional groups, and assuming that no objection had been raised. The proposals would be placed under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours. In her letter dated 15 April, the ECOSOC President informed the Membership that a delegation had requested that secret ballots be conducted for four of the ten bodies under silence procedure, including the CPD. As a result, the elections of new members to

the CPD would be postponed until the earliest possible time to hold the elections by secret ballot.

A representative from DGACM provided further information about the election process and candidatures for the Commission.

A representative from DESA shared an update on business continuity and meeting management.

### **3. Actions to be taken by CPD53: Feedback from regional groups**

The Chair recalled that, at its previous meeting, the Bureau had discussed two options for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of Commission. The first option was to hold a short session and conduct all business, including (a) approving the agenda for the 54<sup>th</sup> session, (b) deciding the theme for the 55<sup>th</sup> and (c) adopting a draft resolution on the theme of the 53<sup>th</sup> session, as well as (d) closing the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, (e) opening the 54<sup>th</sup> session, and (f) electing the Bureau of the 54<sup>th</sup> session. The second option was to hold a session limited to a minimal set of procedural actions, including all of the above actions except adopting a substantive resolution on the theme. In the latter case, the Chair had suggested to postpone the consideration of the current theme to the next session.

The Chair had suggested that Bureau members pose the following question to the members of their respective groups:

*Should the shortened meeting of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission, to be held possibly in mid-June 2020, include the consideration of a draft resolution on the special theme or should it be limited to taking necessary procedural action?*

*Consideration of a draft resolution on the special theme will imply:*

- *updating the draft resolution on the special theme with language on COVID-19, and*
- *holding virtual (online) informal consultations.*

The Chair invited all Bureau members to report back on the feedback received.

- The Eastern European Group was ready to negotiate on a short outcome document, especially in light of the current situation, focusing on food security and nutrition. The Group supported including elements on the impact of COVID-19 on implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- The African Group supported postponing the CDP until mid-June or July and having it as a one-day event. It did not support negotiating virtually a lengthy outcome document and suggested that such negotiations be postponed until in-person meetings can be resumed. Under the current circumstances, the draft text should be limited to one page as finding agreement will be a challenge without the ability to meet in person.
- GRULAC, while more supportive of the second option, could support having consultations on a revised outcome document on the theme in relation to COVID-19. While in principle the Group supported the use of virtual consultations, the region had concerns about whether the process would be inclusive and transparent. The region supported updating the text to include language on the situation related to COVID-19. Such language should not change the main focus on the theme and could address issues related to the impact of COVID-19 on food security, nutrition and sustainable development. The Group supported deferring the theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session to the 54<sup>th</sup> session and deferring the theme of the 54<sup>th</sup> session to the 55<sup>th</sup> session. Deferral of the theme to the next session would allow for the inclusion of information on best practices from COVID-19. One Member State had also suggested considering the impact of COVID-19 on implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- In the Asia and Pacific Group, some members preferred option one, others preferred option two, and one country was flexible about this choice. Should there be a substantive outcome document, it

would need to be short, concise and oriented towards the COVID-19 pandemic.

- WEOG reported that most of its members supported virtual consultations in order to reach an agreed outcome. Considering the procedural uncertainties, some Member States preferred postponing the theme to next year.

The Chair concluded that it was difficult to proceed without having a unified view on the way forward. He highlighted the serious concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on food security, particularly concerning supply chains, labour-intensive agriculture and migrant labour. It could affect the credibility and relevance of the Commission if it were not able to produce an outcome addressing the impact of COVID-19. For the Commission to succeed in producing a short outcome document, all regions would need to engage in the virtual consultations, and the Rome-based agencies would need to provide substantive inputs. Next year, the Commission could consider the current theme in greater depth.

The representative from UNFPA concurred that it was important for the Commission to adopt an outcome this year and suggested that it include language on how the pandemic affected the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action more broadly.

With reference to a non-negotiated outcome, the Secretary of the Commission clarified that preparing a Chair's summary would only be possible if a substantive discussion had been held on the theme. In the absence of a substantive consideration of the theme by the Commission, the Chair or the Bureau could decide to issue a statement.

In conclusion, the Bureau agreed with the Chair's proposal to put forward a proposal on a way forward for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, which would be shared with all regional groups for feedback.

**Action: Chair to share a proposal on a way forward for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session with the Bureau**

#### **4. Future role of the Commission**

Due to a lack of time, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

#### **5. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked all participants and adjourned the meeting.

**Tenth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*Thursday, 23 April 2020, 11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.*  
(Via MS Teams)

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Anna Berkovich, Rachel Snow

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the tenth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants.

The following draft agenda was adopted: (1) Update on business continuity and meeting management, (2) Chair's proposal for the outcome document: Feedback from regional groups, (3) Future role of the CPD, and (4) Any other business.

**2. Update on business continuity and meeting management**

The ECOSOC President had informed the Chairs of the functional commissions that the ECOSOC Bureau was continuing to revise the Council's work programme and adapt its working methods in light of the changing circumstances, noting also the importance of harmonizing the working methods of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In her letter dated 17 April, the President provided examples of how a number of intergovernmental processes and bodies had successfully adapted their work programmes and methods to the current reality. The President had encouraged the functional commissions to consider adopting similar practices, including by holding virtual informal consultations, communicating via email, applying constrained timeframes, and working on concise texts. The 2020 cycle of the Council was scheduled to end following the management segment scheduled on 22 July 2020, by which date all recommendations for consideration by the Council within its 2020 cycle should be taken up. The letter advocated for a coordinated approach among the various ECOSOC bodies.

The Secretary of the Commission provided an update on business continuity and meeting management from the perspective of DGACM and in light of its ongoing collaboration with the Office of Information and Communication Technologies.

**3. Chair's proposal for the outcome document: Feedback from regional groups**

At its previous meeting, the Bureau had discussed feedback on options for conducting the scaled-down 53<sup>rd</sup> session and had agreed that the Chair would formulate a proposal for a way forward. Following the earlier meeting, the Chair had shared the following 5-point proposal with the Bureau:

1. *The Chair will put forward a proposal for a short draft declaration (1-2 pages), addressing the*



- implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of the special theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session.*
- 2. The draft declaration will replace the zero draft of the resolution on the special theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session, which was circulated in March 2020.*
  - 3. The Chair will convene two or three rounds of virtual (online) informal consultations on the basis of the draft declaration and any subsequent revisions, prepared by the Chair.*
  - 4. In line with ECOSOC resolution 2020/3, the Commission will take action on the draft declaration and on any other draft proposals, during a short, procedural meeting of the Commission, to be held during the 2020 session of the Council, possibly in mid June.*
  - 5. To ensure that the Commission will give due consideration to all relevant aspects of the current theme, the Chair will propose that the special theme of CPD53 in 2020 be carried forward to become the theme of CPD54 in 2021. This proposal implies that the theme selected last year for CPD54 in 2021 would be postponed until CPD55 in 2022.*

In conveying his proposal to the regional groups, the Chair had suggested that Bureau members highlight: (a) the significant impact of COVID-19 on food security, especially in some developing regions, and (b) the critical importance of the Commission adopting an outcome that is pertinent in the current context.

He then invited all Bureau members to report on the feedback they had received:

- The African Group was willing to engage on the basis of the Chair’s proposal. The Group suggested that the text, which should be short and concise, highlight the impact of COVID-19 on women, children, migrants and food security, especially in Africa, while avoiding controversial issues.
- Among the Eastern European Group, most countries were willing to engage on the basis of the Chair’s proposal. One country had a number of procedural and other questions but indicated it would not block consensus. The text would need to include references to the impact of COVID-19 on implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- The Asia-Pacific Group could go along with the Chair’s proposal to put forward a short draft declaration which would be negotiated online. The Group recommended that the Chair’s text also address the impact of COVID-19 on population and development issues more generally.
- Within the Western European and Others Group, most countries supported the Chair’s proposal to have a short declaration as the outcome document for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session. However, the declaration would need to include references on how COVID-19 is affecting implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action more generally. While several countries would prefer a Chair’s statement over a negotiated outcome, they indicated that they would engage in any consultations convened by the Chair.
- The Latin American and Caribbean Group voiced its general support for the Chair’s proposed approach, particularly with regard to bullet five of the proposal. One Member State would prefer transferring the current theme to next year’s session while focusing the current session on the impact of COVID-19 on implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

The representative of UNFPA supported the view, expressed by some regional groups, that the draft declaration should also refer to the broader impact of the current pandemic on implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

The Secretary of the Commission clarified the difference between the “traditional” silence procedure, which was applied to draft proposals before they are officially adopted in a formal meeting, and the “new” silence procedure, approved for the GA and ECOSOC, which allows for the adoption of draft proposals by these bodies on an exceptional and time-bound basis in the current situation where formal meetings cannot be held. A separate decision would be needed to apply the “new” silence procedure to decisions taken by the CPD if it becomes evident that the Commission would not be able to convene a formal meeting before the

Council concludes its 2019-2020 session in July.

In summarizing the discussion, the Chair noted the lack of a common view about the contents of the proposed declaration, both between and within the regional groups. He suggested to reflect on the issue and to consult with some key parties before convening a follow-up meeting next week.

#### **4. Future role of the CPD**

The Chair recalled that a small drafting group had updated the informal discussion note on the future role of the Commission in light of discussions at the Bureau's eighth meeting. A new version of the note had been distributed the previous Thursday. The Chair reiterated his appreciation to the drafting group for having prepared an informative and concrete discussion paper. He proposed to wait before distributing the paper to other Member States until there was greater clarity about the format of the possible outcome of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session.

#### **Action:**

- **Secretariat and UNFPA to work under the guidance of the Chair to finalize discussion paper on the Commission's future role**
- **Chair to prepare a letter for the distribution of the discussion paper at a later date**

#### **5. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.

**Eleventh Meeting of the Bureau**  
*Wednesday, 29 April 2020, 3.00 – 5 p.m.*  
(Via MS Teams)

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg), Christine Bailey (Jamaica)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Jacqueline Mahon, Ms. Anna Berkovich, Ms. Soohyun Kim

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the eleventh meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants and expressing the hope that all members were well under the dire circumstances, created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following draft agenda was adopted: (1) Update on business continuity and meeting management, (2) Way forward for a substantive outcome of CPD53, (3) Any other business.

**2. Update on business continuity and meeting management**

At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretary of the Commission provided an update on business continuity and meeting management from the perspective of DGACM. She reported that in-person meetings were unlikely to take place by early June. DGACM was currently developing protocols, both for official, online meetings, including e-voting and the provision of simultaneous interpretation in the six official UN languages, as well as for in-person meetings, taking into account health, social-distancing and safety considerations.

She also addressed a question about the possible use of the “new” silence procedure, adopted recently in the context of the GA and ECOSOC.

**3. Way forward for a substantive outcome of CPD53**

The Chair recalled that, at its previous meeting, the Bureau had discussed the feedback from the regional groups on the five-point proposal the Chair had proposed as a way forward for a substantive outcome of the fifty-third session.

He recalled the main elements of the proposal, which included (1) preparing a short draft text of 1 to 2 pages, which addresses the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of the special theme of the fifty-third session, (2) convening two or three rounds of virtual (online) informal consultations on the basis of a draft text and any subsequent revision(s), and (3) carrying forward this year’s theme to next year,

and next year's theme to 2022.

He summarized his take-away messages from the feedback as follows:

- Member States had not raised any strong objections to the 5-point proposal.
- Most Member States supported the key elements of the 5-point proposals.
- Some Member States preferred not having a negotiated outcome.
- Some Member States had raised technical and procedural questions.
- Some Member States had suggested to include in the zero draft of the text an indication of how COVID-19 was impacting the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.
- Member States had differing views on how best to move forward.

The Chair suggested, therefore, to convene a virtual meeting to which all Member States would be invited. Such consultation would allow the Bureau to take into account the views of all participating Member States. The consultation would also provide an opportunity to address questions as well to clarify working methods and propose a timeline for the consultations. Importantly, a virtual meeting with Member States would allow delegates to exchange views.

Following a brief discussion, the Bureau supported the Chair's proposal.

UNFPA expressed its support for the Chair's proposal to convene a virtual, informal meeting open to all Member States.

**Action. The Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for an online, informal meeting with Member States to be held during the first week of May.**

#### **4. Any other business**

In response to a question from the Chair, the representative of the African Group confirmed that the Group would nominate a Chair for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission shortly.

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.

**Twelfth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*Thursday, 14 May 2020, 3 – 5 p.m.*  
(Via MS Teams)

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Jacqueline Mahon, Ms. Anna Berkovich, Ms. Soohyun Kim

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting, and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the twelfth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants.

The draft agenda, as proposed by the Chair, was adopted.

**2. Update on business continuity and meeting management**

At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretary of the Commission provided an update on business continuity and meeting management. She reported that the GA was in the process of extending its procedure for taking decisions during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) under decision 74/544 to the end of June as well as to its subsidiary bodies. Once adopted, the ECOSOC was expected to take a similar decision extending decision 2020/205 that would also allow Council subsidiaries to take decisions under a silence procedure.

**3. Update on procedure for taking action**

The Chair recalled that the Commission was expected to take a number of actions, in particular: (1) electing the remaining members of the Bureau and designating a rapporteur for the fifty-third session, (2) deciding on the themes of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth session, (3) approving the agenda for the fifty-fourth session, (4) adopting the outcome document, (5) closing the fifty-third and opening the fifty-fourth session, and (6) electing the Bureau for the fifty-fourth session.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Secretary of the Commission outlined the various options for taking decisions in the current context of no formal (either in-person and virtual) meetings being possible during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Secretary also referred to the detailed steps for taking decisions under the silence procedure outlined by the President of the ECOSOC in the document "[Step-by-Step process for consideration of draft decisions/resolutions in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2020/205 of 3 April 2020 entitled "Procedure for taking decisions of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic"](#)", which was also expected to be

extended to Council subsidiaries shortly.

#### **4. Consideration of zero draft of the outcome document**

The Chair shared his impressions of the informal meeting with Member States, held Thursday 7 May. Given that some 140 delegates had taken part in the meeting and that 24 delegations had taken the floor, including three on behalf of a group of States, the meeting had succeeded in soliciting the views of the broadest possible membership in deciding on the way forward for the outcome document. The meeting had also allowed the Chair to clarify substantive and procedural issues. Lastly, the meeting had been useful for explaining the methods of work for online consultations and for sharing the provisional timeline. Member States had voiced broad support for producing a short two-page outcome document, for considering this year's special theme in greater detail next year, and for holding online consultations.

The Chair then introduced the zero draft of the outcome document by describing his method for preparing the draft. First, the document maintained a strong focus on the special theme in the context of COVID-19, while including key references to the ICPD Programme of Action. Second, the draft avoided language from paragraphs or resolutions that were voted. Third, where possible, the draft included agreed language, which was defined as language from resolutions that had been adopted by consensus. Fourth, the substantive base for the outcome document consisted of recent policy briefs and reports by the Secretary-General and the UN system on COVID-19 in relation to this year's special theme. The most important policy briefs had been posted on a dedicated [webpage](#) of the CPD, maintained by UN DESA's Population Division. Sixth, in case new language had to be used, contentious language was avoided. Seventh, the length of the text had been kept to approximately two pages.

The Chair invited the Bureau members and UNFPA to share their views on the draft. Following the tour-de-table, the Chair thanked all participants for their views and indicated that he would make several amendments.

He then reiterated the tentative timeline for the draft outcome document:

- By 15 May, distribute the new zero draft
- By 29 May, convene first informal consultation
- By 5 June, convene second consultation, based on a revised draft
- By 12 June, circulate final draft under silence procedure
- Second half of June, adopt the outcome document

#### **Action:**

- **Chair to amend the zero draft of the text in light of the discussion today**
- **Chair to distribute the zero draft as well as the draft decision on the themes of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth session**

#### **5. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.

## **Thirteenth Meeting of the Bureau**

*Tuesday, 9 June 2020, 3 – 5 p.m.*

(Via MS Teams)

### **Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Satoshi Ezoe (Japan), Mr. René Lauer (Luxembourg),

#### ***Secretariat:***

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer

- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

#### ***Observers:***

- UNFPA: Ms. Jacqueline Mahon, Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Anna Berkovich,

### **1. Welcome, opening of the meeting, and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the 13th meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. The draft agenda, as proposed by the Chair, was adopted.

### **2. Update on business continuity and meeting management**

The Secretary of the Commission provided an update on business continuity and meeting management. At the request of the Chair, she expanded on the relevant provisions contained in the recently adopted ECOSOC resolution 2020/4, which decided that the CPD, if the convening of in-person meetings should not be possible, may consider holding informal meetings using a virtual platform. Such a meeting could be held in order to acknowledge the work of the Commission and close its fifty-third session. The draft proposals would need to be placed for adoption through a silence procedure pursuant to Council decision 2020/206 before the holding of the virtual informal meeting.

### **3. Status of draft proposals**

#### ***(a) Provisional agenda for the Commissions fifty-fourth session***

The provisional agenda for 2021, including the proposed agenda item on “Future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development”, had received broad support during the informal consultations held on 5 June. Regarding the brainstorming on the future role of the Commission, which is closely linked to the proposed agenda item, the Chair suggested to circulate the paper, which had been prepared by the Secretariat under the auspices of the Bureau, towards the end of the month.

Bureau members agreed to consult their respective regional groups whether, in addition to asking Member States to respond in writing to the questions included in the paper, the current Bureau should organize an online brainstorming. Such brainstorming could also be organized under the auspices of the next Bureau.

#### ***(b) Special themes of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions***

The Bureau’s proposal to have an in-depth consideration of this year’s theme next year had received broad support during the informal consultations, which took place on 5 June. Delegations also supported the

proposal to carry over the special theme for 2021 (“Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”), adopted in 2019, to 2022. Several delegations requested to amend the wording of the theme for 2022 to include “green” or “sustainable” economic growth.

*(c) Draft declaration*

During the informal consultations on 8 June, delegations expressed the view that Revision 1 had improved the overall text. Countries were also pleased that the text remained limited to two pages. At the same time, a number of important issues still needed to be resolved. The Chair briefed the members of the Bureau on his consultations with several delegations. Members of the Bureau exchanged views on the status of the deliberations on the draft declaration. The Chair responded to several questions from members of the Bureau and informed the Bureau that he would continue to hold bilateral discussions in the coming days. He was planning to convene informal consultations on Revision 2 during the course of the following week.

**Action. Bureau members to consult with their respective regional groups about the desirability of holding an online brainstorming session on the future role of the Commission, following the distribution of the paper prepared by the Secretariat later this month.**

**4. Nominations for next year’s Bureau**

The Secretary of the Commission provided an overview of the nominations of candidates for the fifty-fourth session of the Bureau received by the Secretariat. Bureau members provided an overview of the status of nominations by their regional groups.

**Action. Bureau members representing regional groups still to nominate a candidate to follow up with their regional groups on the nominations of candidates for the Bureau of the fifty-fourth session.**

**5. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.



**Fourteenth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*Wednesday, 24 June 2020, 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon*  
(Via MS Teams)

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Mariame Fofana (Burkina Faso) (Vice-Chair designate), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. Satoshi Ezoe (Japan), Ms. Julie Oppermann (Luxembourg)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Jacqueline Mahon, Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Anna Berkovich

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting, and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the fourteenth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. The draft agenda, as proposed by the Chair, was adopted.

**2. Update on business continuity and meeting management**

The Secretary of the Commission provided an update on business continuity and meeting management. Further to the adoption of decision 74/558 by the General Assembly on 18 June 2020, the ECOSOC President had proposed a similar draft decision to extend the provisions of ECOSOC decisions 2020/205 and 2020/206 enabling the Council and its subsidiaries to take decisions during the COVID- 19 pandemic until the end of July (subsequently adopted as ECOSOC decision 2020/219). She also reported that the silence procedure on limited remote voting procedures in the General Assembly during the pandemic had not passed. Further, given that arrangements for remote simultaneous interpretation had not yet been put in place, convening formal meetings virtually remained not possible.

**3. Status of draft proposals**

*(a) Draft declaration*

The Chair invited the members of the Bureau and UNFPA to share their views following the informal consultations on Revision 2 of the draft declaration held on Monday, 22 June. He reported on bilateral consultations with various countries and groups and emphasized the importance of using previously agreed language. The members of the Bureau and the representative from UNFPA exchanged views on the draft resolution, especially on those paragraphs and issues where the views of Member States strongly diverged. The Chair expressed his intention, as he had done during the consultations on 22 June, to circulate a draft text under an informal 24-hour silence procedure towards the end of the week.

*(b) Provisional agenda for the 54th session and the special themes for the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> session*

Given that these two draft proposals had not been discussed during the informal consultations, held on 22 June due to time constraints, the Chair announced that he would convene a separate round of consultations

on 25 June.

#### **4. Brainstorming on the future role of the Commission**

The Chair indicated that while he was committed to distributing the paper on the future role of the Commission following the conclusion of the informal consultations, in accordance with his earlier announcement, there would not be enough time to organize a brainstorming meeting under the auspices of the current Bureau. It would be more useful to hold a brainstorming meeting later this year, under the auspices of the next Bureau, once the Secretariat had received and analyzed the written responses to the questions contained in the paper.

The Bureau members concurred with the Chair's proposal to distribute the paper following the conclusion of the consultations and agreed to propose to the incoming Chair to convene a brainstorming meeting.

**Action: Chair to circulate the paper on the future role of the Commission following the conclusion of the informal consultations and to advise the incoming Chair to hold a brainstorming on this issue later this year.**

#### **5. Nominations for next year's Bureau**

The Chair encouraged those regional groups that had not already done so to submit a candidate for the Bureau for the fifty-fourth session and underlined in this regard the importance of designating the next Chair.

The representative of WEOG confirmed that Turkey had put forward its candidature.

**Action. Bureau members representing regional groups still to nominate a candidate to follow up with their regional groups on the nominations of candidates for the Bureau of the fifty-fourth session.**

#### **6. Any other business**

At the request of a member of the Bureau, the Secretary of the Commission clarified the procedure and established practice for adopting draft proposals.

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.

**Fifteenth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*Tuesday, 30 June 2020, 12.00 noon – 1 p.m.*  
(Via MS Teams)

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. Satoshi Ezoe (Japan), Ms. Julie Oppermann (Luxembourg), Mr. Bernard Yameogo (Burkina Faso)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Jacqueline Mahon, Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Anna Berkovich

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting, and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the fifteenth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. The draft agenda, as proposed by the Chair, was adopted.

**2. Update on business continuity and meeting management**

The Secretary of the Commission updated participants on timelines for adopting draft proposals in accordance with Economic and Social Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2020/219.

**3. Status of draft proposals**

The Chair informed the Bureau that the 24-hour informal silence procedure for the draft declaration had not passed. In breaking silence, countries cited concerns, inter alia, about the absence of language referring to unilateral coercive measures and to a sovereignty clause. Also, countries opposed the proposed language on the outcomes of the regional review conferences of the ICPD Programme of Action and on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

The silence procedure on the provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2020/L.2/Rev.1) and on the special themes for the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission (E/CN.9/2020/L.4) had concluded without objections.

The members of the Bureau and the representative from UNFPA exchanged views on the text of the draft resolution, especially on those paragraphs and issues where the views of Member States strongly diverged. It was observed that countries had objected to the draft text on various grounds. It was suggested that members of the Bureau reach out to those countries which had broken silence in order to determine if consensus could be reached before deciding on circulating another (final) text for the draft declaration.

The Chair thanked the members of the Bureau and the UNFPA for their feedback. As a next step, he recommended that, if the Chair and the Bureau agreed to put forward a final draft of the declaration, that such draft would be circulated under the formal 72-hour silence procedure, mandated by ECOSOC for adopting draft proposals during the pandemic, together with other draft proposals before the Commission

for action.

The Bureau concurred with this approach.

**Action:**

- **Chair to continue to consult on the draft declaration.**
- **Chair to circulate draft proposals under the formal 72-hour silence procedure, mandated by ECOSOC for approving draft proposals during the pandemic.**

**5. Nominations for next year's Bureau**

The Chair encouraged those regional groups that had not already done so to submit a candidate for Vice-Chair for the fifty-fourth session and underlined in this regard the importance of designating the next Chair.

**Action. Bureau members representing regional groups still to nominate a candidate to follow up with their regional groups on the nominations of candidates for the Bureau of the fifty-fourth session.**

**6. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.

**Sixteenth Meeting of the Bureau**  
*Monday, 6 July 2020, 12.00 noon – 1 p.m.*  
(Via MS Teams)

**Minutes**

**Bureau members:** H.E. Mr. Christian Braun (Luxembourg) (Chair), Ms. Yuliana Angelova (Bulgaria) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Roshelle Henry (Jamaica) (Vice-Chair designate), Mr. Junya Nakano (Japan) (Vice-Chair designate)

**Experts:** Mr. Satoshi Ezoe (Japan), Ms. Julie Oppermann (Luxembourg), Mr. Bernard Yameogo (Burkina Faso)

**Secretariat:**

- UN DESA: Mr. John Wilmoth, Mr. Bela Hovy, Ms. Cheryl Sawyer  
- DGACM: Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Ms. Jori Joergensen

**Observers:**

- UNFPA: Ms. Jacqueline Mahon, Ms. Soohyun Kim, Ms. Anna Berkovich

**1. Welcome, opening of the meeting, and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) opened the sixteenth meeting of the Bureau by welcoming all participants. The draft agenda, as proposed by the Chair, was adopted.

**2. Status of draft proposals and way forward**

*(a) Draft declaration*

As the 24-hour informal silence procedure for the draft declaration did not pass, the Chair continued bilateral consultations to find a path forward on the draft declaration. However, delegations demonstrated little flexibility to reach a compromise. Whereas there was broad agreement on language pertaining to the central theme of this session, no consensus could be reached on several issues, including related to the ICPD Programme of Action.

Given the abovementioned situation, the Chair saw no other solution than to withdraw the text of the draft declaration. The Chair expressed regret for not being able to submit a final draft of the declaration under the 72-hour silence procedure for adoption. He had hoped that the COVID-19 pandemic would bring countries together and allow them to set aside their differences so as to enable the adoption of a consensual declaration.

He proposed to officially inform the Commission on the way forward later that day. He thanked the members of the Bureau and all other participants for their hard work over the past weeks and months. He then invited Bureau members as well as UNFPA to take the floor.

Following a brief exchange of views, the Bureau concurred with the proposed course of action.

*(b) Other draft proposals*

The Chair recommended circulating five proposals under the 72-hour silence procedure for adoption.

- 1) The draft decision entitled “Election of officers of the fifty- third session of the Commission on

Population and Development” issued as document E/CN.9/2020/L.3 under item 1 of the provisional agenda;

- 2) The draft decision entitled “Provisional agenda for the fifty- fourth session of the Commission” issued as document E/CN.9/2020/L.2/Rev.1 under item 5 of the provisional agenda;
- 3) 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;
- 4) An oral decision authorizing the Chair to prepare a Chair’s summary of the discussions on the draft declaration on “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; and
- 5) An oral decision to adopt the draft report of the Commission on its fifty- third session (to be issued as document E/CN.9/2020/L.5) and entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization in collaboration with the secretariat, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its 2020 session.

The Bureau concurred with this course of action.

**Actions:**

- **Chair to inform Member States that the text of the draft declaration will be withdrawn.**
- **Chair to circulate all remaining draft proposals under the formal 72-hour procedure for adoption under silence procedure, mandated by ECOSOC for approving draft proposals during the pandemic.**

**3. Circulation of the paper on the future of the Commission**

The Chair proposed circulating the paper on the future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development, prepared by the Secretariat, in the course of the week and inviting Member States to provide written comments by the end of the month. In his cover letter, the Chair would briefly explain the purpose of the paper and invite Member and Observer States to respond in writing to the questions included in the note.

The Bureau agreed with the proposed course of action.

**Action: Chair to circulate to all Member States the paper on the future role and organization of the CPD during the course of this week.**

**4. Nominations for next year’s Bureau**

The Chair encouraged regional groups that had not already done so to submit their candidate for the Bureau of the fifty-fourth session.

**Action: Bureau members representing regional groups still to nominate a candidate to follow up with their regional groups on the nominations of candidates for the Bureau of the fifty-fourth session.**

**5. Any other business**

As there was no other business, the Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.