

**Fifty-fourth session of the  
Commission on Population and Development**  
New York, 19 – 23 April 2021

Closing remarks  
H.E. Ambassador Yemdaogo Eric Tiare (Chair)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

As we have come to the end our session, allow me to share a few brief reflections.

**First**, we have learnt a lot these past weeks and months about the interlinkages between population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development.

The reports, the speakers, the contributions of Member States, the expertise of UN entities and the inputs of stakeholders have all enhanced our understanding and underpinned our deliberations. This week has demonstrated once again that the work of this Commission is anchored in solid evidence.

All this knowledge and all these resources will serve us extremely well as we are preparing for the upcoming Food Systems Summit. But I am convinced that our increased understanding of these complex topics will also serve us more broadly in our duties, both current and future.

**Second**, I am extremely pleased that, after years of deadlock, the Commission was able to agree on its main outcome: the resolution on the special theme. I want to thank all delegations for their hard work, for their constructive attitude, and for their spirit of compromise.

The adoption of the resolution is a clear sign:

- That the Commission is still fit for its purpose of monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the achievement of relevant SDGs,
- And that the Commission continues to matter for people, for places and for our planet.

The text we agreed today will provide policy guidance to national governments and the international community, inspire civil society to advocate for change, and give direction for programme implementation, for years to come.

It will also send a resounding message to the HLPF, the Food Systems Summit, the Nutrition for Growth Summit and other upcoming high-level events about the critical role of population issues in relation to food security, nutrition and sustainable development.

**Third**, the consultations on the future role and organization of the Commission inspired the organization of our session in three main ways.

- First, more than ever, this session benefited from the engagement of stakeholders, in particular other UN entities and civil society.
- Second, we held interactive multi-stakeholder panels, invited thought leaders on food and nutrition security and listened to national population experts.
- Third, we reinforced transparency by holding regular briefings and consultations and by systematically distributing information using the e-delegate platform.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who worked tirelessly to prepare and organize our annual session:

- To the members of the Bureau, Cristina, Damla, Nizar and Mayra: thank you for your leadership, your team spirit, and for staying the course.
- To the high-level speakers, the moderators and the panelists: thank you for enriching our debates.
- To all delegations: thank you for your contributions and your constructive engagement.
- To the UN family: thank you for collaborating and contributing your collective expertise.
- To civil society and other stakeholders: thank you for your interest, your contributions and your insights.

And last but not least, to our friends at UNFPA, DGACM and UN DESA: thank you for all your work in supporting the work of the Bureau, in organizing the annual session, and in servicing the informal consultations — in short, for keeping the Bureau and the Commission on track towards a successful outcome.

Thank you.