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MR. LIU ZHENMIN

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

**FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

New York, 19 – 23 April 2021

To be delivered by:

John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, DESA

**Your Excellency Ambassador Yemdaogo Eric Tiare, Chair of the 54th session
of the Commission on Population and Development,**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

**I am pleased to deliver the following remarks on behalf of Mr. LIU
Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who
unfortunately is unable to join us today.**

**First, allow me to extend my congratulations to the Chair, Ambassador
Tiare of Burkina Faso, to other members of the Bureau, and to the
Commission as a whole for the successful outcome of this year's session. We
are very pleased that the Commission has come together once again to
underline the centrality of population issues in addressing current and future
challenges of sustainable development.**

I am especially grateful that the Commission's tradition of adopting resolutions by consensus has prevailed. As we all know, such texts have greater weight and can be more influential both on the ground and in future intergovernmental discussions.

Mr. Chair, we commend you for your capable leadership throughout the fifty-fourth session, which has allowed us to reach this successful outcome. Allow me to thank you and all members of the Bureau for the excellent team spirit in which we have worked together over the past year, and to congratulate you and the Bureau on the organization of a rich, substantive session. We benefited from many informative presentations by senior officials, -eminent experts and a variety of stakeholders, featuring a number of panel discussions and interactive dialogues.

As one of the expert bodies of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission has demonstrated once again that it is able to muster the knowledge and evidence needed for the United Nations to move forward with our common agenda.

This week's deliberations have also been helpful in preparing all of us for the upcoming High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, the Food Systems Summit, the Nutrition for Growth Summit and other upcoming high-level events.

I would also like to thank all of our UN partners for their contributions in making this session a success. I want to mention in particular FAO, WHO, IFAD, WFP, UNICEF and UNEP, who made important contributions to the substantive preparations for this year's session.

I wish to offer a special word of thanks, as well, to our colleagues from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for their

advice on procedural and related matters, and for organizing the meetings of the Commission both virtually and in-person.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our closest ally in this work, Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, as well as her excellent team, for their many substantive contributions to the preparation and organization of the annual session, including for the informal consultations on draft proposals.

In closing, let me express the hope that the spirit of constructive engagement and flexibility among delegations that we have seen in these past few weeks will extend into the 55th session. We look forward to a full in-person meeting next year, as the Commission takes up its chosen theme of “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
