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**The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York**

**بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الامم المتحدة
نيويورك**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Edrees
Permanent Representative of the
Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations in New York
Before The 54th Session of the
Commission on Population and Development
19-23 April 2021**

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Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development. I would also wish to thank the Secretary General for his reports presented to our session, as well as recognize the efforts of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UNFPA in the follow-up of the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action.

Mr. Chairperson,

Egypt aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Congo on behalf of the African Group.

This session gains special importance as it takes place amid the COVID-19 Pandemic that affected all aspects of life, and resulted in major negative repercussions at all levels, which were greater felt by the developing countries.

The selection of this session's theme "Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development", strengthens the linkage between the implementation of the ICPD program of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

According to the report of the Secretary General, in 2019, approximately 746 million people worldwide suffered from severe food insecurity, and an additional 1.3 billion from moderate food insecurity. In Africa, more than 50

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per cent of the population was either moderately or severely food insecure. This situation was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The aforementioned challenges are further compounded by other factors, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, and more over water scarcity, especially in certain areas of Africa such as the Sahel region, Eastern Africa and the Nile Basin.

Accordingly, the exceptional circumstances that we face today require immediate actions to confront them, through directing the political will of the international community towards deepening international cooperation at all levels to achieve our joint goals. It is in this context that Egypt hosted the ICPD 27 years ago, the conference that established the direct link between population and achieving economic and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairperson,

Egypt exerted continuous efforts in achieving food security and sustainable agriculture in a time that we are facing great hurdles connected to our water security, which is a prerequisite to achieve food security for over 105 million Egyptians. We are currently implementing a national program which aims at increasing agricultural productivity by 25% by the year 2025, while also reclaim 630 thousand hectares of newly agricultural land. Our endeavors are not only limited to the national level, but also extended to strengthening South-South cooperation, especially in Africa, through the Egyptian Agency for Partnership Development.

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Moreover, we believe that the food systems summit scheduled to take place in September 2021 in New York, presents a perfect opportunity to regain the global momentum to reposition food security at the top of our global agenda

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm Egypt's commitment to the full and balanced implementation of the Program of Action of the ICPD in parallel to enhance achieving the sustainable development goals, as well as its commitment to the success of the 54th Session of the Commission of Population and Development.

Thank You.
