

REMARKS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ERIC TIARE (BURKINA FASO), CHAIR OF THE 54TH SESSION OF
THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Integration Dialogue 3: Human well-being and capabilities: Building back more
resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable societies

Thursday 10 June 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (NY time)

Ambassador Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Vice-President of ECOSOC
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to contribute to this third Integration Dialogue on “Human well-being and capabilities: Building back more resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable societies”.

I will seek to address the questions included in the concept note, with a specific focus on SDG 1, no poverty, SDG 2, zero hunger, and SDG 3, good health and well-being. I will try to identify key policy options and concrete examples of integrated policies to inform the deliberations next month.

First, on working towards sustainable food systems, the Commission on Population and Development observed that the current global food system is environmentally unsustainable, with major impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity and climate. Population growth and rising incomes will be important drivers of increased food consumption in many countries. The Commission called for transforming food systems to make them more sustainable and resilient and emphasized that the promotion of sustainable food systems and agricultural production are key elements for the eradication of poverty. The Commission called for actions to enable access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and diverse food and healthy diets for all.

Second, on ensuring the inclusivity of recovery strategies and policies, the Commission found that the COVID-19 pandemic had further deepened situations

of vulnerability experienced by women and girls, undermining their access to food and disrupting important antenatal and postnatal services. It was recommended that Governments ensure universal access to high quality social services that allow vulnerable populations to develop the human capital required to raise their lifetime earning potential. Women, young people and older persons should have access to land, inheritance, capital, training, services and technologies.

The Commission called for access to safe and nutritious food for all, including women, children, adolescents and youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, rural populations and rural producers, displaced persons, refugees and migrants, the urban and rural poor, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and those living in vulnerable situations. Those enduring humanitarian crises, the adverse effects of climate change or economic shocks should also be included in efforts to end hunger and malnutrition.

Third, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls are crucial to the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. The Commission highlighted the importance of women's equal access to quality education at all school levels and lifelong learning. This theme will be the subject of in-depth consideration in 2023 when the Commission will consider the special theme of "Population, education and sustainable development".

Fourth, on accelerating Member States' efforts towards recovery and achieving the 2030 Agenda, let me raise the issue of following up on our commitments. For instance, even though the 54th session of the Commission on Population and Development has adopted a very substantive resolution on its theme of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development, the Commission has no mechanism to ensure a stocktaking of implementation down the road. As suggested by some Member States, adding a secondary theme to the Commission's programme of work, consisting of a review of progress in implementation of an earlier theme, could enrich the annual session while also promoting accountability.

Lastly, it may be beneficial to encourage functional commissions to identify synergies and to promote joint actions. For example, the CPD could contribute to deliberations on demographic statistics in the Statistical Commission, and to discussions on people in vulnerable situations in the Commission for Social

Development. Similarly, discussions in other subsidiary bodies could be informed by a fuller understanding of demographic megatrends and by the analysis of by population data disaggregated by age, sex and other relevant characteristics.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.