

REMARKS BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ERIC TIARE (BURKINA FASO)  
CHAIR OF THE 54TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
ECOSOC MANAGEMENT SEGMENT  
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Ambassador Collen Vixen Kelapile, Vice-President of ECOSOC  
Excellencies  
Distinguished delegates,

It is a pleasure and a privilege to introduce the report of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission of the Commission on Population and Development. I would like to make three quick points.

First and foremost, I am delighted that, after years of stalemate, the Commission was able to adopt a substantive resolution on the special theme. Allow me once again to congratulate all delegations as well as the co-facilitators for this successful outcome. I am particularly pleased that the resolution on Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development was adopted by consensus, in line with the Commission's established practice.

The resolution not only highlights key concerns with regard to food security and nutrition, but also draws attention how these concerns matter for women and girls as well as to the impact of current food systems and diets on sustainable development. The resolution contributes directly to the SDGs being reviewed by this year's High-level Political Forum, in particular Goal 1 on no poverty, Goal 2 on zero hunger, Goal 3 on good health and well-being, Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production, Goal 13 on climate action and Goal 17 on partnerships. In doing so, the resolution not only demonstrates the interconnectedness of the SDGs, but also, and more broadly, affirms the important contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

By adopting the resolution, the Commission proved once again that it can produce technical and expert analyses, assessments and policy recommendations to inform the work of the Council. In line with paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 72/305, it is my hope that the resolution will provide the Council with useful ideas for the HLPF Declaration and that it will also help in the preparations of the upcoming Food Systems Summit.

As anticipated, the Commission adopted also by consensus the draft agenda for the fifty-fifth session and the special theme for the fifty-sixth session.

My second point is that, over the past two sessions, the Commission has made a significant effort in reviewing its modus operandi. The previous Bureau initiated a brainstorming on the future role and organization of the Commission for two main reasons. First, to address the

difficulties the Commission had encountered in recent years in adopting a consensus resolution on the special theme. Second, to reinvigorate the work of the Commission. The consultations we held revealed that the lack of consensus encountered during recent Commissions was due to substantive differences between Member States and lack of political will, not because of inadequate methods of work. These consultations also indicated that the overwhelming majority of Member States preferred adopting resolutions and decisions by consensus rather than by alternative means. Further, we learnt that the Commission has a lot of latitude to adjust the programme of the annual session within the current methods of work. Building on the good work of the previous Bureau, we were able to introduce a great number of innovations. We involved stakeholders and technical experts to a greater extent. We held more interactive panels. And we promoted greater transparency by regularly holding online briefings and consultations and by systematically using the e-delegate platform.

My third and last point is that much as we look forward to returning to our regular practice of holding in-person meetings, conducting our business during the pandemic has taught us some important lessons. First, we were able to draw on more high-level speakers and panelists from around the global globe by means of pre-recorded statements and virtual panels. Second, we found that in-person, formal meetings are a much better vehicle for taking decisions and acting on draft proposals than written procedures. Third, we learnt that starting informal consultations well ahead of the annual session may contribute to a successful outcome.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.