



PERMANENT MISSION OF
COSTA RICA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS

54th session of the Commission on Population and Development
Virtual informal meeting on
The future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development
28 January 2021, 3 – 5 pm.

Mr. Chair,

Thank you very much for convening this informal brainstorming meeting on the future role and organization of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), and allow me at the outset to congratulate you for your appointment as Chair of this Commission's 54th session, and assure the support of the delegation of Costa Rica to a successful outcome.

The CPD was created with a primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and we Member States, have the mandate to enforce the Programme of Action adopted by a vast majority of countries.

The issues that are part of the work of the CPD are relevant and current and deserve to be addressed with commitment and decision. Issues such as international migration, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and international cooperation, multiple forms of violence and discrimination, among others, are today more than ever a top priority on the international agenda.

We are called to eliminate the gaps that exist at the international, regional and national levels to provide the maximum possible well-being and guarantee human rights for all.

The global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has deepened inequalities, but affects especially women around the world who have historically suffered from inequality and discrimination. Until the gaps that affect women are reduced and they are given the equal opportunities they deserve, it cannot be expected that the consequences of the global crisis will be overcome, even less the achievement of the SDGs.

We reaffirm in this regard the urgent need to build together, in solidarity and with mutual responsibility, new pathways to tackle the different problematics under the scope of this Commission on the basis of full inclusion, promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth, participatory social development, environmental protection and the inherent dignity of the human being.



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Each year that the CPD meets is our opportunity to advance the fulfilment of commitments that as Member States we have made on the Commission's agenda, but lately, we have wasted those moments due to our own incapacity to maintain frank and constructive positions.

The CPD must fulfill its role by being effective and leaving aside the paralysis that has affected it for years, and for this it is necessary to look for the necessary bridges and strengthen the dialogue between the countries seeking consensus. However, consensus should not be understood as another way to “veto” decisions, thereby preventing the progress of the majority.

We are of the view that the methods of work should be analyzed and reviewed under this premise.

On the other hand, we want to emphasize the need to strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation and ODA that prioritizes the needs of the people, using other measurements beyond GDP per capita that reflect the reality of the countries. Support should continue in making all populations statistically visible, especially indigenous peoples, people of African-descent and LGBTI populations through the development of specific and innovative indicators, exchange of good practices and accessible training opportunities for public officials.

Finally, virtual work dynamics, as we have learned from the current pandemic, have the potential to support monitoring commitments and the active participation of a wider public. The last few months have shown that access to and strengthening of ICTs must be a priority for the advancement of multilateralism.

The instruments and the means are there. Let's use them. Neglected people expect nothing less from us.