



Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations

Statement of Lebanon
By Counselor Mr. Nizar Kaddouh

**VIRTUAL MEETING ON THE FUTURE ROLE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

(28 January 2021)

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank you for convening this timely brainstorming meeting on the future role of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). Lebanon, having joined the CPD Bureau recently, reiterates its commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda and the work of the Commission, which should be preserved. The latter is the only intergovernmental body with a mandate to follow the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action (PoA) within the UN system. ICPD has even become more relevant in light of the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people in vulnerable situations, and the ambitious pledges made at the Nairobi Summit (ICPD+25) in November 2019: 8 billion USD to be mobilized by the private sector to advance the ICDP agenda, and more than 1200 commitments have been made by different stakeholders in that regard.

It is critical that CPD remain a political platform for Governments to review progress based on evidence-based technical discussions, deliberate on ways to achieve the ICPD PoA, and remain mutually accountable for its success. CPD can strengthen its accountability role, by regularly examining the progress of the PoA aspects in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals as stated in paragraph 11 of the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes that the ICPD PoA has “laid a solid foundation for sustainable development” and has “helped to shape the new Agenda”.

The world is facing increasing population and development challenges, from food security, global pandemics, gender equality, gender-based violence, humanitarian crises to shortages of basic health services, including on SRHR. CPD could provide guidance to Governments and to the international community in understanding and taking decisive action on these issues and trends. In this context, we call for more investment in research and data information systems, including disaggregated data, to examine the situation of

people in vulnerable situations, and further develop informed evidence-based policies at the national, regional and global levels, to implement the ICPD PoA.

We also believe that ensuring meaningful participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in CPD is of utmost importance. We support the organization of dedicated CSOs events ahead of the session, as well as broader CSOs participation during the session, to ensure their meaningful contribution to the CPD outcomes.

In that regard, our preference is to have a consensus-based outcome but not at the expense of its content. Therefore, we believe that a voted outcome is a viable option, and would be in line with the rules of procedure of the ECOSOC and its functional commissions.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson,

It is imperative to keep the CPD alive for the reasons stated above, while coping with the world's emerging challenges. In this context, we support including new themes in the CPD agenda to ensure its continued relevance in light of new demographic trends, as well as making a stronger connection between regional and field perspectives and the global progress on the ICPD PoA.

Lebanon looks forward to the discussions and negotiations on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development at the 54th session of this Commission, and will engage constructively towards a successful outcome.

Thank you.

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