

UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Kanem,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Twenty-eight years ago, following the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo, Member States requested this Commission to support, and review the implementation of, the full range of activities outlined in its Programme of Action.

You, as the members of the Commission on Population and Development at its fifty-fifth session, have proven to be able stewards of the Commission's work. By reaching consensus on all four proposals put forward by the Bureau, you have demonstrated not only that the Commission's working methods are working well, but also that it is possible to bridge political differences in pursuit of shared objectives.

By focusing on Chapter III of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Commission has undertaken, for the first time in 28 years, a comprehensive assessment of critical linkages between population and sustainable development, with particular attention to sustained and inclusive economic growth.

You considered these issues and linkages at a time when the world has committed to building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Moreover, your deliberations have taken place against the background of a triple crisis affecting the food, energy and financial sectors, as mentioned by several speakers in the opening segment on Monday morning.

In addition, this session has highlighted important opportunities for broader engagement by the Commission in the future, including at the Education Summit in September and in the context of the regional and global reviews of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in 2023 and 2024.

Dear delegates,

General Assembly resolution 75/290 asked the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC to ensure that their work is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and that they produce high-quality assessments and policy recommendations concerning its implementation.

Insights from the multi-stakeholder panel on Tuesday morning regarding the contribution of population and development issues to the current theme of ECOSOC, as well as the resolution on the special theme of this year's session, which you adopted just moments ago, will no doubt provide valuable inputs to the HLPF and its ministerial declaration.

Moreover, contributions by Member States, observers and civil society during the general debate and the interactive panels, as well as the reports of the Secretary-General prepared for this session, have provided us with much food for thought.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who worked tirelessly to prepare and organize our annual session:

- To my fellow Bureau members, Andrei, Antonin, Mayra, Sara: Thank you for helping to organize an interesting and innovative session, for facilitating the consultations on the draft proposals, for chairing plenary meetings, for moderating panel discussions and for performing myriad functions with professionalism and dedication.
- To the senior officials, panelists and moderators who participated in the plenary meetings: Thank you for enriching our deliberations.
- To all Member State delegations: Thank you for your substantive contributions to the discussions in the plenary, including the interactive panels, and for your constructive engagement during the negotiations.
- To our colleagues from throughout the UN system: Thank you for sharing your expertise on the topics we have been discussing.
- To civil society: Thank you for your contributions and insights, and for holding Member States accountable for the commitments they have made during this session.
- And finally, to our colleagues from the UN Secretariat, both DGACM and DESA, and from UNFPA: Thank you for your skillful and steadfast support to the Bureau in organizing and managing the session, including the informal consultations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased that we have been able to hold this session mostly in person. A special thanks to those who traveled from afar, and I wish you safe travels back home.

Hopefully, next year we can once again meet fully in person again.

Thank you.