

UNITED NATIONS



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**MR. LIU ZHENMIN  
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
AFFAIRS**

**REMARKS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**29 APRIL 2022**

*To be delivered by Mr. John Wilmoth, Director, Population Division, DESA*

Your Excellency Ambassador Enrique Manalo, Chair of the 55th session of the Commission on Population and Development,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to deliver the following remarks on behalf of Mr. LIU Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who unfortunately is unable to join us here today.

First, allow me to extend my congratulations to the Chair of the 55<sup>th</sup> session, Ambassador Manalo of the Philippines, to other members of the Bureau, and to the Commission as a whole for the successful conduct and outcome of this year's session. We are very pleased that the Commission has come together once again to underline the centrality of population issues in addressing current and future challenges of sustainable development.

Mr. Chair, we commend you for your exemplary leadership throughout the fifty-fifth session, which has been essential for reaching this successful outcome. Allow me to thank you and the four vice-Chairs for the excellent collaboration and comradery that has characterized our work over the past year. I also wish to congratulate you and the Bureau on the organization of a rich and substantively engaging session.

The Commission benefited from informative and insightful presentations by senior officials, eminent experts and various stakeholders who participated in the panel discussions and interactive dialogues. As one of the expert bodies of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission has demonstrated once again that it is able to muster the knowledge, evidence and political will needed for the United Nations to advance the international agenda on population

and development, and to contribute to improving the living conditions of people around the world, including both present and future generations. The panels also gave specific, action-oriented recommendations to accelerate implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Importantly, we heard repeatedly from experts, from Member States, and from other stakeholders including civil society about the crucial importance, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, of strengthening investments in social protection and in the development of human capital across the life course to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth. The Commission will deepen its consideration of the latter topic during its next session, which will explore relationships between population, education and sustainable development.

The multi-stakeholder panel on Tuesday morning showed various ways in which the Commission can contribute to discussions about the main theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF in 2022, “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as well as to the review of SDGs 4 and 5 within the HLPF. Also, the panel’s consideration of complementarities with other functional commissions of ECOSOC contributes to the ongoing review of the work of the subsidiary bodies, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/290 A.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to recognize our UN system partners for their substantive contributions to this session. I want to mention in particular UNCTAD, UNDP, UN Women, The World Bank, ILO and UNEP, all of which contributed through their participation in this week’s session or in the preparatory expert group meeting held in July of last year.

I wish to offer a special word of thanks, as well, to our colleagues from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for their helpful procedural advice, for their skillful preparation of documents, for organizing both the virtual and the in-person plenary meetings and for the interpretation services that make it possible for us to communicate effectively despite language differences.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our perennial collaborator and close ally, Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, and to her excellent team for their many contributions to the preparation and organization of the annual session, including for the informal consultations on draft proposals.

In closing, let me again congratulate the Commission for achieving consensus around a resolution on the special theme. It is important, as well, that the Commission has taken decisions about future sessions that will help to guide the Commission’s work towards our shared goals of fully implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling the promise that no one will be left behind.

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