



**STATEMENT OF ECUADOR**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**  
15 July 2020

Mr. President,

We commend your work and of the Bureau during the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission of Population and Development, convened under the special theme “Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic”. We recognize the efforts of States and the UN system to have fruitful discussions during these challenging circumstances.

The COVID-19 pandemic affects the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions –economic, social and environmental–, exacerbates existing challenges and creates new vulnerabilities, setting back the progress made for years, including on eradicating poverty and hunger, and achieving food security and nutrition.

Among developing countries most affected by the pandemic, Middle-Income Countries face challenges such as weak health systems, high levels of indebtedness and limited fiscal space, and require international support, solidarity, and to be considered eligible for humanitarian assistance, health and recovery programs from COVID-19 pandemic.

There is the need to preserve food supply-chains, maintain functioning food systems, avoid food shortage, reduce food loss and waste, safeguard food safety, and ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. We encourage actions to enable access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and diverse food for all, and highlight the role of small-scale and family farming in achieving food security and in providing livelihoods.

We are concerned of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to people in vulnerable situations, including those with underlining medical conditions and older persons, the exposure of frontline workers and caregivers, that the risk of dying from COVID-19 is higher for men, and the devastating effects of COVID-19 on the rights of men, women and children.

We call upon the strengthening of national health systems, universal health coverage, preparedness, prevention and resilience, as well as equal access to medical supplies, medicines and future COVID-19 vaccines.

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES  
Y MOVILIDAD HUMANA

MISIÓN PERMANENTE DEL ECUADOR  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
NUEVA YORK



EL  
GOBIERNO  
DE TODOS

International cooperation and solidarity are fundamental to combat the pandemic and its consequences, and to achieve the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We look forward to the Food Systems Summit in 2021 convened by the Secretary-General.

Mr. President, we regret that despite your efforts, those of the bureau members and of many delegations, in order to include important references of the work of the Commission and of the realities we are facing as a global community, it was not possible to reach consensus in the declaration of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission nor in the Chair's Summary, hampering the work and legitimacy of the Commission.

We believe that the Commission should place greater focus on the special theme of each session and adopt outcomes with references enjoying consensus from all the membership, preserving the essence of multilateralism and joining communalities to face the current world challenges.

Thank you, Mr. President,

