

## **Report on the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development**

The UK offers our appreciation to the Chair for their able facilitation of this decision and for proposing adjustments that allowed the session to continue despite the limitations of virtual platforms.

The Commission on Population and Development serves as vital function as the main UN forum that monitors, reviews, and assesses the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Commission provides important advice to the Economic and Social Council on the progress on the methods through which we can improve the implementation at the national, regional and international level. Acknowledging the essential role of the Commission, the United Kingdom deeply regrets that the Commission was unable to reach consensus on a decision this year.

We fully support the Chair's proposal to carry forward the theme of population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development to the 54<sup>th</sup> Session. Now more than ever, we must discuss the important connections of this theme to the development of a more sustainable and equal world. The food security and nutrition of women, girls and vulnerable populations is essential to ensuring the world builds back better in the COVID-19 recovery. Through our co-leadership of the recovering better for sustainability of Financing for Development discussion group, we are prioritizing an inclusive response - ensuring the needs of women and girls are at the centre. Further, we stress the critical role that women have as decision makers and leaders in the COVID-19 response and recovery.

In the wake of the pandemic, we are alarmed by reports of increased gender-based violence and loss of access to sexual and reproductive health services. Now more than ever, we must ensure we do not rollback on progress. The UK is fully committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health - free from discrimination, coercion and violence. We are committed to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health, to realising sexual and reproductive rights, and to providing universal access to SRHR services to all. We urge all Member States to work together to achieve the full implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development.

We look forward to the 54<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development as an opportunity to accelerate progress on nutrition, food security and the full realisation of sexual and reproductive rights for all.